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Arafat sending mixed signals on meeting with PM

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

SINCE both leaders now have expressed a willingness to meet, efforts are under way to organize a summit between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A senior Palestinian official said he understood the meeting could be held in Cairo under the auspices of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The talk is that this meeting could be held tomorrow or the day after, but this is not certain," Osama Baz, chief foreign policy adviser to Mubarak, told reporters at a Washington seminar on the Middle East.

However, Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, general secretary of the PA cabinet, said he understood the possible dates were today or Sunday.

Sending mixed signals, Arafat said yesterday he was willing to meet with Netanyahu to work out a Hebron deal, but then told a European visitor a summit could only cap successful negotiations.

On his return from a trip to Europe this week, Netanyahu said the time had come for him to meet with Arafat to wrap up a deal, and that disagreements could be resolved in that meeting.

Arafat responded yesterday morning by saying that he was willing to meet with Netanyahu. However, in the afternoon he told Miguel Moratinos, the European Union's Middle East envoy, that he would only attend a summit once the negotiators had completed their work.

"He will not meet Netanyahu until the gaps are bridged," (Continued on Page 18)

Portugal atones 500 years after Jews expelled

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

FIVE hundred years to the day after King Manuel I expelled thousands of Jews and forced others to convert to Christianity, Portugal held a series of solemn ceremonies to atone for the royal edict.

After attending a reading of psalms at Lisbon's synagogue, Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon went to parliament, where deputies unanimously passed a declaration to redress the edict's ethnic and religious intolerance.

The two-day commemoration culminates a process of atonement started by former president Mario Soares, who in 1988 first apologized to Jews for centuries of persecution by the Grand Inquisition.

Events included the inauguration of a synagogue in the small, eastern town of Belmonte, where Jews secretly preserved their religion and traditions for centuries, and the reenactment of Manuel's edict on stage in Lisbon's Maria II National Theater, built on the site of an Inquisition court.

(Continued on Page 18)

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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	3:59 p.m.	5:14 p.m.
Tel Aviv	4:17 p.m.	5:16 p.m.
Haifa	4:06 p.m.	5:13 p.m.
BeerSheva	4:15 p.m.	5:13 p.m.
Eilat	4:20 p.m.	5:20 p.m.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu lights the first Hanukkah candle yesterday, as his family and aides look on. (Flash 90)

Clinton names Albright to be first female secretary of state

William Cohen appointed defense secretary

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday named UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright to be the first female US secretary of state, and selected retiring Republican Sen. William Cohen of Maine as defense secretary.

Completing his second-term national security team, Clinton

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies WASHINGTON

also said he would nominate Anthony Lake, his national security adviser, to be the new CIA director. Sandy Berger, Lake's deputy, will move up to take his boss's former spot.

Announcing the changes at an Oval Office ceremony, Clinton said his new team was made up of people with "remarkable qualities of intellect, energy and leadership."

"Our responsibility is to build on the strong foundation laid in the last four years," he said.

The nominations of Albright, Cohen and Lake are subject to Senate confirmation; Berger's is not.

Clinton paid tribute to his departing national security team—Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry, and CIA Director John Deutch—as "bright, forceful,

strong-minded individuals." Christopher, Perry and Deutch were in the Oval Office for the announcement.

Albright told Clinton "I am deeply honored by your decision," adding, "We have had a skilled and successful foreign policy team."

To Christopher, she said, "I hope my heels will fit your shoes."

Clinton said Albright has demonstrated "steely determination." (Continued on Page 18)

Two navy frogmen killed in training accident

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal has appointed an inquiry committee to determine the cause of the mysterious deaths in a routine training exercise of two IDF frogmen, whose bodies were found yesterday in Haifa Bay 16 hours after they went missing.

The two, First-Sgt. Matan Polibuda, 20, from Mevasseret Zion and First-Sgt. Yair Engel, 19, from Kibbutz Ramat Rahel, were veterans of dozens of dives. They were approaching promotion to the elite Shayetet 13 underwater commando battalion.

Unit commanders and naval commando veterans were baffled by the fatal mishap. An initial inquiry found that their equipment was not damaged and there were no signs of any blows or trauma to their bodies.

They were last heard from at a 10:05 p.m. check Wednesday night. When they failed to show up for the next leg of their underwater navigational exercise the navy began searching for them. Dozens of frogmen swept the dark waters of Haifa Bay while naval vessels crisscrossed above. Fearing the two divers may have been hit, all maritime traffic in Haifa Bay was halted during the searches.

The naval commandos are reputed to take special safety precautions, that were initiated following a similar fatal diving exercise two years ago. All divers are attached to their partners with a 1.5 meter rope, so they can find and help each other in case of an emergency.

The exercise was held in a section of Haifa Bay behind the seawall, protected from the rough seas and currents. They were to go the 650 meter distance twice. The first time Polibuda led, then it



First-Sgt. Matan Polibuda (IDF Spokesman)



First-Sgt. Yair Engel (IDF Spokesman)

was repeated with Engel in command.

Swimming in polluted water peppered with sunken wrecks, the two were running through the repeat mission at a faster pace, either because they were already familiar with the route, or in an attempt to improve their standing in the unit. Minutes after they were supposed to report in, their instructor began search efforts.

At 3 p.m. yesterday their bodies, still tied together, were found on the sea bed at a depth of 9 meters.

The speculation is that one diver began having difficulties and his mate tried to help him and subsequently floundered, leading to a double tragedy. But Tal has appointed an inquiry committee headed by an experienced lieutenant colonel to try to determine exactly what happened.

"Twenty years ago we would take much higher risks, but in the past decade the dives are under maximum inspection, so if there is a human error the partner knows

how to solve the problem and there shouldn't be any accident," said Col. (res.) Dudu Schick, former deputy commander of the naval commandos.

"It could be that the partner got under too much pressure and wasn't able to do what he needed to do, and this made it difficult for him to rescue himself. There is an obligation beyond the physical link, tying them together to each other, and the education in the Shayetet is that you always save your partner even before you save yourself, and that you leave no one alone under the water," Schick told Army Radio.

On Kibbutz Ramat Rahel, Engel's family said they were not blaming anyone for their son's death.

"We have no complaint or claims against any one of his wonderful commanders. Only those who don't try don't make mistakes, and if there was a human error then we can understand," the family said in a statement.



Madeleine Albright (Reuters)

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Kedumim head says construction of 700 homes to begin soon

HERB KEINON

A DAY after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his government is constrained "financially and bureaucratically" from expanding settlements, Kedumim Local Council head Daniella Weiss said construction of 700 new units in her settlement will begin within the next two months.

Plans are currently being drawn up by the local council for another 1,000 units in the settlement.

Some members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza said that Weiss's comments seemed timed to embarrass Netanyahu.

"Why can't people just shut up?" said one settlement official. "It will be years before this happens, why does she have to go and make a big deal out of it?"

According to this official, Weiss was motivated by a desire to "hit the headlines," and to also embarrass Netanyahu.

The settlement council has been taking Netanyahu to task for weeks for not building fast enough in the settlements. "It will do nobody any good to embarrass the prime minister," the official said. "Nothing constructive will come out of it."

Weiss, in an interview on Israel Radio, said "part of the project is a continuation of what was stopped after the elections in 1992. A couple hundred units that were just about ready to be built were stopped, and we now want to continue building them."

Weiss said that a program of massive building is needed in the settlements. "If we build 1,700 units here, and another 1,700 units elsewhere, this does not satisfy us. What the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza want is for hundreds of people to come to Samaria. This isn't done by building 1,000 here, and 1,000 there. This is done by massive building of thousands of units."

The Defense Ministry, which generally releases the same pat response when asked about projects approved in the settlements, denied yesterday that approval had



New buildings in Kedumim stand vacant yesterday.

been granted for the 1,700 units. "In light of the reports, sources in the defense establishment are saying that plans to build 1,700 units in Kedumim were never discussed or approved. There are a variety of plans in Kedumim meant to give an answer to natural growth in the settlement, including old plans that were frozen in 1992 and are partly being discussed now, and are in different stages of approval within the government's framework," a spokesman said.

In September, when some 3,000 units — most of them in haredi settlements — were approved by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, some 125 were approved for Kedumim.

The spokesman said there is no intention of establishing new settlements.

Protests follow suggestion to name Kiryat Arba street after Yigal Allon

HERB KEINON

AS if the Kiryat Arba/Hebron settlements are not embroiled in enough controversy, a suggestion last week to name a street in Kiryat Arba after Yigal Allon has generated more.

Under the headline "Leave the memory of Yigal Allon alone," a nearly one-quarter page add appeared in the *Ha'aretz* newspaper yesterday calling on settlers not to use Allon to further their political agenda. The ad was signed by three long-time labor activists.

The advertisement was in reaction to a comment made by Kiryat Arba activist Elyakim Ha'etzni to a business group in Tel Aviv that the settlement would name a street after Allon.

Ha'etzni yesterday called Allon "the father of Hebron and Kiryat Arba" because of the support he gave the settlers there in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He quoted from a letter Allon wrote in 1969 saying "We have come back to Hebron, never to leave again."

He said Allon was instrumental in establishing the Settler's Cafeteria next to the Machpela Cave, the first Jewish presence in Hebron.

But Allon's widow, Ruth Allon, said that there have been no attempts in the past to memorial-

ize Allon in the settlements, and that to do it now is a "cynical political act" designed to link Allon, and his memory, with

the ideas range from intensive lobbying in the Knesset, to reclaiming Jewish property in the Casba. The press has reported that some women in the settlement even have threatened to set themselves on fire, reports that were fervently denied by the women themselves.

And now, over the internet, comes yet another novel idea: move National Infrastructures Minister Ariel Sharon into the city.

In an article in cyberspace presented by the Jewish Community of Hebron, Joseph Frager, a New York doctor and avid supporter of the settlement, writes: "In a game of high stakes political chess, one of the remaining moves left for the Jewish people in holding onto the 90 percent of Hebron that is being offered to [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat is for General Ariel Sharon to move into an apartment in the heart of Hebron as soon as possible. Otherwise, I'm afraid it will be checkmate for all who worked so hard to maintain an undivided Hebron and maybe, God forbid,

"This was not acceptable to Gush Emunim and they worked to destroy the Allon Plan," she said. "It was not for nothing that the General Security Service decided to place guards around Yigal because of threats he received."

The private member's bill initiated by MK Avi Yehezkel was approved Wednesday in preliminary reading and out as reported yesterday.

HEBRON settlement activists, and their supporters, have spent much time over the last few months trying to figure out ways to prevent an IDF redeployment in the city.

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Albright: Lacking ME experience

ANALYSIS

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SECRETARY of State-designate Madeleine Albright and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have something in common. Each served their countries as ambassador in the UN, and each took the view that the world was literally a stage.

At the UN, it is easy to lecture the bad guys. But the higher you go up the ladder, the more one realizes that there are tough calls to make when it comes to formulating policy.

Nobody should doubt Albright's steely determination, which was evident in her effective calls to act against the brutality of the dictators of Serbia, Haiti and lately Iraq. When the Iraqis labeled her a "snake woman," she went out and bought a serpent pin, which she wore on her lapel.

Albright's hawkishness, however, has been more in evidence when it comes to proclaiming moral values than discerning vital interests. While tough on Saddam now, she, like most Democrats, opposed the Gulf war before it began. But Albright now says that the US has learned a lesson as a result of the Gulf war. Officials in Jerusalem are delighted with her remarking, in allusion to the West's appeasement of Hitler, that "some people's historical context is Vietnam; mine is Munich."

The tough instincts Albright exhibited at the UN made her Israel's quiet first choice for secretary of state. One wonders, however, how her streak of moralism will be received here if she blames Israel for violating the Palestinians' human rights. In any case, Israel's track record in predicting the friendliness of secretaries of state has been poor: recall the dour predictions about George Shultz and Warren Christopher.

One probable result of the appointment is that the indefatigable Middle East peace team headed by Dennis Ross is likely to stay in place. Albright does not have her own coterie of Middle East experts; at social gatherings, she has fended off questions by expressing ignorance of the region. She visited here in 1992 as part of a delegation of the Washington Institute for Middle East Policy.

How much Albright focuses on Syria — which was very much a focus of her predecessor Christopher — may be less up to her than to President Bill Clinton. After all, even though Yitzhak Rabin quietly promised Syrian President Hafez Assad that Israel would withdraw from the Golan Heights, 26 visits by Christopher to Damascus did not clinch the deal.

Cyberspace summons Sharon to Hebron to block redeployment

HERB KEINON

worse for those who live there."

If Sharon takes Frager's advice, it would not be the first time he would move residences to make a political statement. In the late 1980s, Sharon bought a house in the Moslem Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City both to take a political stand and enhance security in the area.

If Sharon moves into the Avraham Avinu compound, just as Netanyahu's brother-in-law Hagit Ben-Artzi did last month, then, writes Frager, "The least that can come out of it is that the Jews of Hebron will feel much more secure knowing Ariel Sharon is in the neighborhood. The same thing happened when he moved into his home in the Old City. The security improved immediately."

The most that could come out of such a move, say Hebron activists who have discussed the issue among themselves, is that the prospect of Sharon as a neighbor would so antagonize Arafat that he would halt redeployment talks.

"Arafat will have a tantrum or two," Frager writes. "He may ask that Ariel Sharon leave immediately, or else. He may even ask the UN to condemn the man and the

action. "Sharon's presence will be protective and reassuring to a beleaguered people who see the ever encroaching Arafat as an anathema. There are not too many options left. If Sharon decides (I have no idea if he will or won't), our Forefathers will be the first to visit him and make him feel right at home. They deserve the opportunity to show their appreciation."

Sharon, according to one of his close aides, "won't."

The man has a house in Jerusalem, and a ranch in the Negev. He likes the Negev, believes Frager. "The least that can come out of it is that the Jews of Hebron will feel much more secure knowing Ariel Sharon is in the neighborhood. The same thing happened when he moved into his home in the Old City. The security improved immediately."

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NIS 1 million, while ticket 682286 was good for a new car.

Tickets numbered 574301, 801416, 040966, 658960, 851103, 797784, 199361 and 490875 all were good for NIS 5,000, while those holding tickets ending in 51653, 08037, 85174, 21207, 54944, 42845, 14114, 93092, 06641, 54997, 57723, 17430, 13469, 35155, 68185, 82350, 11535 and 15792 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 036, 127, 537 and 006 were worth NIS 100, in 21, 18, 12 and 32, NIS 50, in 68 and 69 NIS 20, and in 0 or 8, NIS 10.

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If you are caught talking on a cellular phone without a special speaker while driving you can now be fined NIS 750. Higher fines for a number of traffic offenses went into effect yesterday, with police issuing hundreds of tickets. (Brian Hendler)

Beefed-up traffic fines go into effect; thousands ticketed

HEAVY traffic fines of up to NIS 1,000 that went into effect yesterday are just the first stage of a crackdown on reckless drivers that police are launching, aimed at cutting the number of traffic accidents and traffic-related fatalities 10 percent by the end of next year.

Hundreds of the heavy fines - including NIS 1,000 for running a red light and NIS 750 for speaking on a mobile phone while driving - were issued.

A total of over 4,000 fines were issued yesterday, Channel 2 reported.

"We didn't tell traffic police to try to issue more tickets," said Cmdr. Bery Ohayon, head of the Police National Traffic Administration. "But whoever was caught was given the new fines. We didn't see any need to give a grace period."

Traffic Administration officers from around the country met in Herzliya yesterday, where they were presented with the administration's plan to cut down on traffic accidents. Some 550 persons have been killed in traffic accidents this year.

The plan centers on beefing up enforcement on 700 kilometers of roads where the majority of accidents take place. A special division within the traffic police will work that area, which includes the Wadi Ara, Wadi Mifit and the old Tel Aviv-Haifa roads.

BILL HUTMAN

"Before we tried to crack down on all the roads, but we simply don't have the manpower to

Fine pricelist

- As of yesterday, the following are the fines for various traffic offenses.
- Exceeding the speed limit by 20 kilometers per hour - NIS 750
- Exceeding the speed limit by 30 kilometers per hour - An automatic summons to Traffic Court and license revoked for 30 days.
- Failure to stop at a red light - NIS 1,000.
- Driving with a load of 25 percent above the permitted weight - NIS 1,000
- Driving while using a cellular phone without a special speaker - NIS 750.
- Passing at an intersection - NIS 750.
- Driving more than the permitted number of consecutive hours - NIS 500.
- Driving along the shoulder of the road - NIS 500
- Parking in a space reserved for the handicapped - NIS 270.

do this," Ohayon said, noting there are some 4,000 km. of roads in the country.

"There will be roads where you won't see a single traffic policeman," Ohayon said.

Another major element of the plan, to be launched in stages starting next month, is setting up cameras at some 500 intersections. Police will have about 100 cameras to take pictures of drivers running red lights and stop signs.

Cameras that record the speed and license plate numbers of speeding cars will also be set up on a 50-km. stretch of highway as a trial for a system traffic police hope to eventually expand. The test location has not been selected yet. The public will be informed which stretch of road has been chosen.

"We are going to pick a stretch of road where there are many accidents. If drivers starting slowing down there, then for us the trial is a success," Ohayon said.

Ohayon said much of the police's new plan for fighting traffic accidents is based on the experience of traffic police in Victoria, Australia, where over a five-year period the number of traffic accidents was cut by 50 percent.

In line with the Australian example, "Our goal is to cut the number of traffic accidents and traffic accident fatalities by 10 percent by the end of 1997," Ohayon said.

Youth found murdered near Hod Hasharon

POLICE are investigating the brutal murder of 18-year-old Assaf Stierman, whose battered body was found early yesterday morning in the Usishkio eucalyptus grove between Kfar Sava and Hod Hasharon.

Stierman, who lives in the US with his father, Avi, returned to Israel six months ago to enlist in the IDF.

At around 7 a.m. a passerby found the body of Stierman and called police. He had been beaten with a blunt instrument on his head and all over his body.

"All motives for the murder are

Raine Marcus

being examined, and nationalistic motives have not been ruled out," said police Dep. Cmdr. Benny Kanyiak.

But other senior police officers said that based on the findings in the eucalyptus grove, nationalistic motives for the murder were unlikely.

Stierman left his Kfar Sava home Wednesday evening, saying he was going to a friend's house. He did not arrive, but no one suspected anything had happened to him, and police were only alerted

when his body was found.

Stierman, who was about to enlist in an IDF combat unit, had no criminal record, and now police are investigating his background, friends and his recent movements.

Residents in nearby houses told police they heard dogs barking at around 4 a.m., probably indicating the time of the killing. When police arrived on the scene, they initially believed they had found the body of a Thai worker, until they found an international driver's license and other documents.

Petah Tikva mayor cleared of forgery, breach of trust charges

Raine Marcus

PETAH Tikva Mayor Giora Lev was acquitted yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on charges of fabricating evidence, forging documents and breach of trust.

Judge Edna Beckenstein, in acquitting Lev, said that all prosecution witnesses' evidence was tendentious and she could not find him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

After the trial, Lev said the trial was "superfluous" and that for six years of his life the charges had caused him distress. Two years ago he was acquitted by the Tel Aviv District Court on other bribery charges.

The charges stemmed from Lev's friend, Ya'acov Goldwasser, being awarded a \$300,000 park development project; the prosecution claimed that the project was given to Goldwasser simply because of his friendship with the mayor. Lev consistently denied all

charges.

While Beckenstein said she found irregularities in Lev's behavior, she ruled that the prosecution had not proven criminal intent. Goldwasser, she said, had the necessary qualifications to carry out the project.

Another charge involved the alleged fabrication of documents with the help of municipality secretary Zamira Shasha, who was earlier acquitted of related charges.

According to the prosecution, Lev gave Shasha forged documents to transfer to the city auditor that pertained to the activities lawyer Yoav Merhavi, a former friend who had since become an enemy. The documents besmirched Merhavi's name.

Beckenstein ruled that all the prosecution witnesses had old scores to settle with Lev and therefore gave tendentious evidence.

Local stress research may explain 'Gulf War syndrome'

Judy Siegel

ISRAELI researchers have found stress can disarm the "blood/brain barrier" that protects the brain from drugs and other chemicals in the circulatory system.

The discovery helps explain the differing reaction in peacetime and in war to the drug pyridostigmine, which was given to US and Israeli soldiers during the Gulf War to protect them against chemical weapon attacks by Saddam Hussein.

The research, by Hebrew University neurobiologist Prof. Hermona Soreq and Dr. Alon Friedman, a Soroka Hospital neurosurgeon who was an IDF doctor during the Gulf War, was published Tuesday in *Nature Medicine*.

More than half a million US soldiers were given prophylactic doses of pyridostigmine during the 1991 war, and some IDF soldiers received it as well for a short time.

Soreq said the research, conducted on mice, was important because it meant people in conditions of stress should get a lower dose of medication.

IDF soldiers who were given the drug during peacetime in clinical trials suffered from minimal side effects, such as sweating, mild diarrhea, excessive urination and salivation, as well as stomach pains. But 24 percent of those who received the drug during wartime

complained of dizziness, headaches, nervousness and reduced concentration - central nervous system symptoms that showed the drug had reached the brain. US soldiers complained about long-term symptoms, but the cause has never been proven.

The brain is unique among organs in that, due to the special compressed structure of its tissues, few chemicals are known to pass into it from the blood. Substances pass from the capillaries to cells, and then to other cells, through a pump-like mechanism. Pyridostigmine is regarded as the most effective drug for preventing nerve gas from passing through exposed to it, and it was believed not to pass the blood/brain barrier.

Ministry office for Christian communities currently homeless

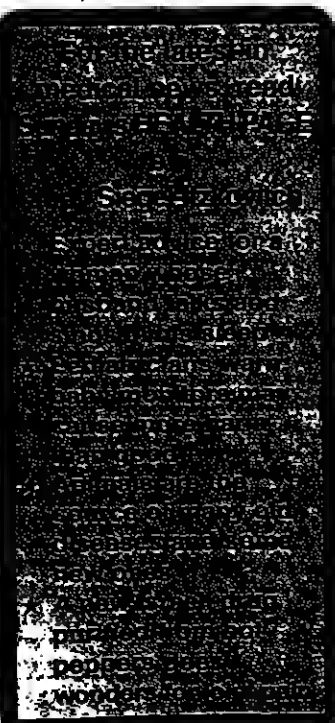
HAIM SHAPIRO

CHRISTIANS in Jerusalem are concerned that the Religious Affairs Ministry's Department of Christian Communities now appears to be homeless, with no office or telephone lines and department officials working from their homes.

The former department offices are presently being renovated to serve as the Rabbinical Court of Appeals. Department officials receive Christian clergy in the corridor and then take documents home.

Charles Kopp, chairman of the United Christian Council in Israel, noted that the department must process virtually all of the visa requests of Christian clergy and volunteers living in Israel. The fact that there was no office, he said, appeared to be a matter of neglect. He added that he hoped this was not an indication that the ministry believed that Christians are of no importance.

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2 shows: 11:30 a.m. - Pre-school through 2nd grade
12:30 p.m. - 3rd grade through 6th grade
At the Gutnick Center

Balloon Man:

David Perkins, our favorite balloon man, will be making funny animals as presents for the children

Guided Walking Tours:

Leaving from the Gutnick Center at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Inside the Machpela:

Hayim Mageni, well-known tour guide and veteran Hebron resident, will lead a fascinating tour of this famous holy site, from 11:30 a.m., continuously through 3:30 p.m.

Hebron Movie:

Continuous screenings at Beit Hadassa

Lectures:

- 12 noon. Rabbanit Levinger: "Beit Hadassa before 1929 and after 1967" (In English)
 - 1 p.m. Chagl Ben Artzi (brother-in-law of Binyamin Netanyahu): "And the Light Dawned on Them in Hebron" - II Samuel 2:32 (in Hebrew)
 - 2 p.m. Noam Armon: "The Jewish Community of Hebron" (in Hebrew)
 - 3 p.m. David Wilder: "Hebron, Now and Forever" (in English)
- All lectures take place at the Avraham Avinu Synagogue

Impressive Hanukka Candle Lighting Ceremony:

At 4:40 p.m. outside the Machpela

Chartered buses - advance reservations essential
Buses will leave Hebron at approximately 5 p.m.

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- Ma'aleh Adumim: 02-535-3737
- Efrat: 02-993-2083, 993-2738
- Tel Aviv: 03-695-4980
- Netanya: 09-861-5348, 861-5193
- Metar (Beersheba): 07-651-7111

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A new attorney-general

ATTORNEY-General Michael Ben-Yair's resignation gives Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yet another task to deal with before the year's end. The manner in which several pressing issues - including the redeployment in Hebron and the passing of the 1997 state budget - are concluded, will in no small measure determine the Netanyahu government's direction and ultimate degree of success. The Hebron redeployment seems to be hanging like an albatross around the government's neck, while Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who has yet to announce the final size of the budget cut he wants to implement, cannot be assured of the budget's easy passage through the Knesset.

No doubt the government will in some fashion clear these two hurdles and move on to the next items on the peace process and economic agenda. The appointment of an attorney-general is a different sort of test for the prime minister. The challenge here is to appoint someone who can uphold the rule of law while maintaining the trust of both the people and the government.

Among the supreme tests of any democracy is the ability of the government to police itself. The attorney-general must be able to assure the public that the government will not be above the law. He is also responsible for defending the government in court.

Though the attorney-general is the government's top lawyer, his position is really more similar to that of a judge: While a lawyer's objective is to win his client's case, the attorney-general, whether in a defending or prosecuting role, must always keep the demands of justice in mind.

In a democracy, the interests of the government are supposed to be identical to the public interest. In practice, these interests often conflict. While the courts are the main arbiters in these conflicts, the attorney-general plays a pivotal role in deciding how the government approaches them.

Former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn, when he was attorney-general, would oversee the lawyers working under him invoke technical grounds, such as the statute of limitations, in defending the government against claims of damages. His objective was to win, but only if winning would serve justice. After all, the government must represent all its citizens, including those who are suing it.

Since the attorney-general is an integral part of the government, his or her greatest challenge is to take on that government when the rule of law dictates. No government likes having its ministers or policies legally challenged, and the attorney-general must constantly withstand tremendous pressure in order to do so.

For the attorney-general to withstand these inevitable pressures, it is critical that he or she be regarded as completely independent and devoid of any political agenda. It is the trust of the public, and the commitment to maintaining that trust, which should ultimately motivate the attorney-general to pursue what is right.

The temptation for any government is to appoint an attorney-general who will not be too tough on it. But giving in to this temptation can backfire. An attorney-general whom the public believes will favor the government might very well bend over backwards to demonstrate impartiality.

On the other hand, the attorney-general must be regarded by the government as an honest broker - not as an enemy from within. The Netanyahu government, which did not regard Ben-Yair as "one of ours," failed to heed his warnings regarding the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as justice minister. As a result, the government suffered the embarrassment of its justice minister being forced to resign.

This sorry episode illustrates the critical need for the government and the attorney-general to trust each other. In other countries, such as the United States, the need for this trust is reflected in the fact that the attorney-general is a political appointee who changes with administrations.

Given that Israel has chosen not to follow this model, the new attorney-general should ideally be someone who could have reasonably been chosen by either major party. Government service under one party or another should not necessarily disqualify a candidate. In fact, it is probably better to have someone with political experience and instincts - but with a non-partisan reputation - than someone with no government experience at all.

Though Ben-Yair has resigned effective January 1, he promised Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi that he would stay on until a replacement is found. Netanyahu must not take advantage of this offer. He should move on to the appointment swiftly and surely, so that the position is taken out of limbo as quickly as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STAY STEADFAST

Sir, - Let us assume that we have friends in the international community who accept our position vis-à-vis the Arab world. They agree that it would be insane to return the Golan Heights to Syria. They agree that we cannot trust Arafat that his intentions are no different now than they were in 1964 - namely to destroy Israel. That even if he comes up with a new covenant and signs peace treaties, we can be sure he will violate them at will and continue to lie and murder. Our friends might agree that even those members of the Arab League that have made peace with Israel have done so only to extract all possible concessions diplomatically; that they will then attack us from a strategically enhanced position while we are strategically weakened. Our friends might also agree that we have been "set up" to be blamed for the failure of the "peace process," as if we started all those wars in order to eradicate the Arab states rather than the other way round.

Even if we have such an ally, what can he do? He certainly can't proclaim his views. He would immediately be subject to heinous terrorism and the ultimate weapon, an oil embargo. No friend, no matter how well-intentioned, will risk that.

So, dear prime minister, do not despair. Even if we appear alone, there may yet be someone out there who knows that we are right. Perhaps as a political leader, he doesn't have the courage to support us openly, but the individuals are there. The man who resigned from the Nobel Peace Prize Committee rather than participate in the award to Arafat is one. We have many friends. Some have expressed their support in these pages. Others have visited here. Just hang on. In 100 years, the world will have moved to energy sources other than fossil fuels. When no longer faced by the oil weapon (and the terrorism which is supported by oil profits), our friends will speak out. You and I won't be here to hear them, but Israel will be, thanks to your steadfastness. In the meantime our faith will sustain us.

ZVI STONE

CONDITIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sir, - One can but sympathize with Palestinian suffering in the autonomous areas of the Promised Land, as described by the political editor of the Palestinian daily *Al-Kuds* ("Tip of a huge iceberg," November 27). However, Mohammed Shaker Ahmed blames their massive unemployment squarely upon Israel, although he modifies that somewhat by including the international powers and "the whole global peace bloc" which "stand by and idly watch a deteriorating situation beat to the verge of explosion."

I would suggest to the political editor that he give further thought to the cause of that situation, for it has much less to do with Israel than with the Palestinian leadership.

Financial circles, whether governmental or private, are greatly influenced by political factors within the region requesting investment. Where conditions are calm, peaceful and rational, financial assistance will be quickly forthcoming. Where there is obduracy, threats of violence and actual terror, interest of the financial circles wanes and eventually vanishes.

That is where Mr. Ahmed must place the blame for Palestinian suffering. Each time the Israeli government declines to accept the dictates of Chairman Arafat, he or his deputy or one or other of his closest associates issues threats of jihad or terror as though that will succeed in producing the economic stability the Palestinian entity so desperately requires.

What is really required are calm and peaceful negotiations in which an atmosphere of give and take prevails. Only thus can the Palestinians expect to "build an economy that could provide a dignified standard of living for just two million people" which Mr. Ahmed so rightly feels is the minimum Palestinians need to correct "the miserable conditions under which so many Palestinians live."

STANLEY BROZA

JEWISH FAMILY VALUES

Sir, - On November 24 and 25, *The Jerusalem Post* printed two thought-provoking articles on its op-ed page. The first was about teaching values in schools and the second, by Ms. Hatis Rofe, about battered women. And, in my opinion, there is a very strong connection between these two issues.

We have known for thousands of years that the central institution in Judaism is the home, not necessarily the school or the synagogue. Here our children learn and absorb their values. And our Torah and rabbinic literature give us detailed instructions about how husband and wife must relate to one another. When these are properly followed, our Jewish homes can be a model of family harmony, love and respect.

My purpose here is not to criticize any individual or group but rather to point out what too many of us have forgotten or are ignorant of. A Jewish home is the cornerstone of our nation's greatness and is a well-spring for those values we all hold most dear.

RABBI EPHRAIM GREENBERG, Director, Families and Friends

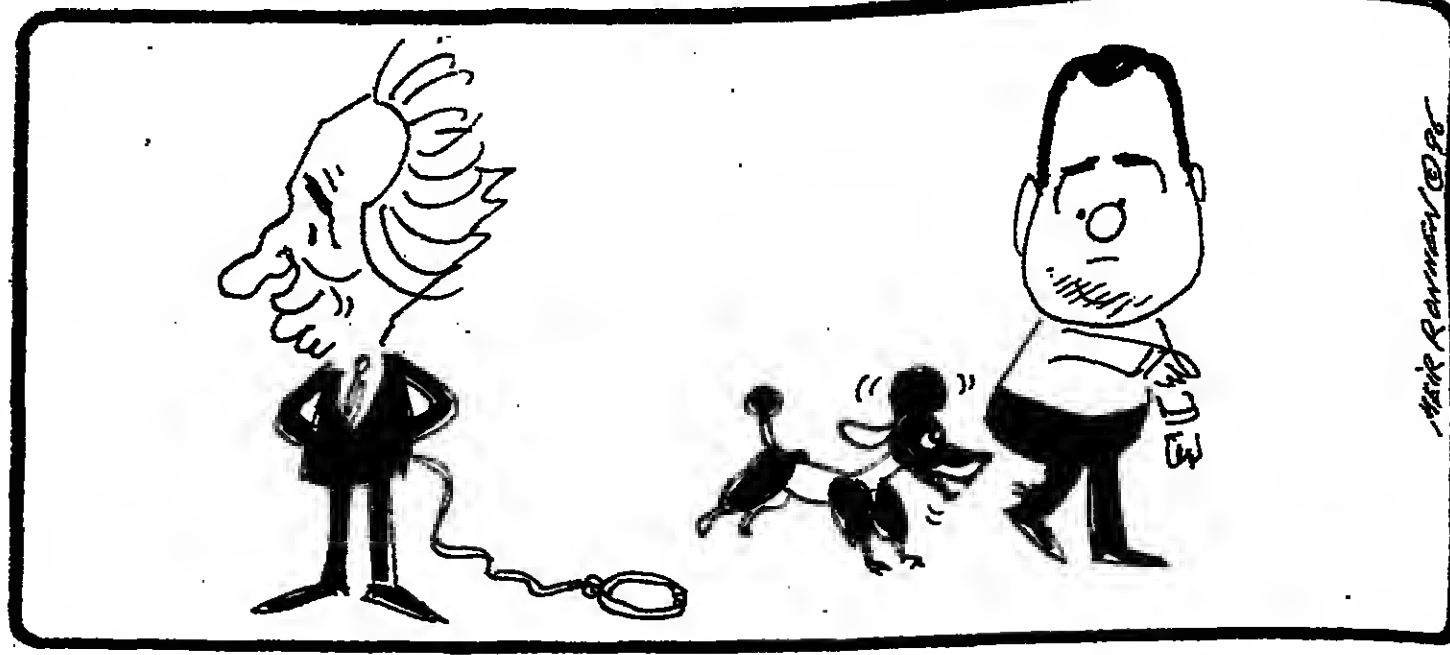
Jerusalem.

GLASS HOUSES

Sir, - When a people, believing themselves to have been dispossessed, are refused even an opportunity to fulfill their aspirations in a peaceful manner, it is invariably the case that they will resort to a violent alternative. This may take the form of assassination, indiscriminate massacre, bombing market places, even buses. If Binyamin Netanyahu, the "arch anti-terrorist," finds this difficult to comprehend, he should perhaps discuss the matter with his friend, political ally and former leader, Yitzhak Shamir, who headed the Stern Gang.

In short, Palestinians should not throw stones, but neither should people in glass houses.

BEN STEWART



From procedures to goals

EVER since prime minister Menachem Begin offered autonomy to the West Bank in 1978 it has been inevitable that whatever the Israeli definition of autonomy, the outside world would increasingly endow that autonomous entity with attributes of statehood.

Equally, unless there were to be an explicit agreement to the contrary, the inescapable implication of autonomy was that it would be applied to the entire West Bank up to the 1967 borders.

In recent months, four developments have ensured that these issues could no longer remain dormant: (1) The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin; (2) the terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; (3) the election of Binyamin Netanyahu; and (4) the behavior of the Palestinian police in the riots following the opening of the Western Wall tunnel.

The murder of Rabin removed the leader best able to convince the Israeli public of the need for a balance between security and legitimacy. Victor in the 1967 war, Rabin was a guarantor that security would not be sacrificed to legitimacy.

His successor, Shimon Peres, despite extraordinary achievements in building up Israel's defenses, did not possess the same credibility. And his prospects for election as Rabin's heir were dealt a mortal blow when terrorists blew up buses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, killing scores of Israelis.

It is therefore unfair to criticize the new Israeli prime minister for not following exactly in the footsteps of his predecessor. Netanyahu was, after all, elected to shift the balance between security and legitimacy in the direction of greater security.

Netanyahu's difficulties were caused less by his change of emphasis than by his failure to recognize the narrow margin at his disposal for that shift.

HENRY KISSINGER

With little experience at the highest level, he foreshortened the time available for learning by some of his rhetoric, which - more than his policies - seemed to challenge the peace process itself.

His initial refusal to meet Yasser Arafat turned recognition once again into a diplomatic weapon, one to which Israel has in the past

It was he who called for the general strike that invited riots even before the opening of the tunnel. And he needs to be reminded that the actions of the Israeli-armed Palestinian police during the riots did nothing to allay Israeli concerns regarding security.

If Arafat cannot or will not control his police forces the Israeli question as to whether a deal is

It is time to address those two great unmentionables: statehood for the Palestinians and Israel's frontiers

been far more vulnerable than its adversaries.

If for Israel the intangible element of the bargain is legitimacy, for the Palestinians it is dignity.

Treating the PLO as if it were defeated and raising again the issue of settlements - especially since an expansion of existing ones by the previous government seems to have been accepted - made it easy for the Palestinians to resurrect their latent confrontational attitudes in the guise of being the injured party.

It is possible - even likely - that Netanyahu's pronouncements were intended as a sop to his constituency before he launched his own peace program. Nevertheless, they have reduced Israel's negotiating room and tempted the PLO as well as the Arab states to bring other nations into the negotiations.

THE US has an obvious stake in stability in the Middle East and needs to maintain its active role. But it must not be stampeded by fashionable slogans. And it should recognize that Arafat too bears serious responsibility for the current state of affairs.

worth making takes on new weight.

America must not let itself get embroiled in an endless guerrilla war over second-order problems. The gradualist approach heretofore pursued - which I strongly favored - has run its course. It needs to be replaced by some comprehensive statement of objectives.

This is the only way American opinion can be mobilized on behalf of a rational program and keep the conflict from rallying fundamentalists all over the Islamic world.

The time has come to address two of the three great unmentionables of the peace process: statehood for the Palestinians and Israel's frontiers.

Autonomy will lead inevitably to a Palestinian state - de facto even if not formalized. The longer this reality is avoided, the less it can be used to enhance Israel's security.

But if Israel is to accept a Palestinian state, the Palestinians must be prepared to enhance Israel's security in an equally explicit form.

Dropping from the PLO charter

the mandate to eradicate Israel is symbolically important, which is why the PLO's delay in carrying out this commitment is so disquieting.

But it is not enough. Palestinian statehood must be made absolutely conditional on an agreement regarding its frontiers, which cannot be those of 1967.

Israel cannot leave, as no country could, all of its major cities within mortar range of the enemy and connected by tenuous corridors, with the one between Haifa and Tel Aviv being only nine miles wide.

THE TWO issues should therefore be linked: statehood for the Palestinians within, to use the phraseology of UN Resolution 242, "secure and recognized borders."

Defining these borders will require some careful prior understanding between the US and Israel. Only by raising the sights of the process itself does it become possible to avoid the ever-growing risk that one of the parties will resort to force.

I have not discussed the issue of Jerusalem because it cannot be dealt with until legal status and borders are settled. The US must shift the discussion from procedures to goals. Israel must face the implications of its own policies.

And the Palestinians, perhaps intoxicated by the heavy wine of global solidarity, must be reminded that they have no military prospects and that their people require not just coexistence but Israeli cooperation in day-to-day living.

If all parties recognize these realities, the tragedies of the past year may yet be perceived as the catharsis of a major step toward a Middle East peace.

The writer is a former secretary of state. (Los Angeles Times Syndicate)

There has to be a Palestinian state

THERE is nothing new in Henry Kissinger's conviction that Palestinian statehood became inevitable from the moment that Menachem Begin accepted the Camp David accords.

Before writing the above article Kissinger said in an interview to *The Economist* way back in 1983 that, "paradoxically, the Begin government, against its preferences and ideology, was really proposing what all other nations were certain to treat as an embryo state."

Many young Israelis have been brought up to believe that a Palestinian state side by side with Israel is an audacious leap into an uncharted future.

It is nothing of the kind. It is quintessential Zionism with deep roots in the soil from which Israel sprang into life nearly 50 years ago. It takes us back in recollection to the most revolutionary transition that has ever been celebrated by any nation.

At the beginning of 1947 our nation was at the lowest ebb of its fortune. The horror of the Holocaust had become visually revealed. There was no readiness of the victors in World War II to regard the Palestinian Jews as a political entity with an inherent right to independence.

The promised homeland was assailed by Arab violence and international alienation. The gates were shut against Jewish entry. There was danger and solitude wherever we looked.

Two years later our flag was aloft in its own name and pride, the Jewish state was established with international recognition, the gates were open, hundreds of thousands of our kinsmen were rushing in. Israel was an acknowledged member of the emerging world community and the war of survival had been won.

No national society had ever passed from such anguish to such salvation in so brief a time. The driving force for this transition came from the cooperation

of the US and the Soviet Union in the UN judgment for the partition of Mandatory Palestine between an Arab state and a Jewish state side by side with economic union.

It is fantastic to recall that in that startling transition an integrative relationship between Israelis and Palestinians was already envisioned as part of a new regional order.

IN AN effort to avoid the inevitable Israel's prime minister has suggested that the Palestinian entity be equivalent in status to Puerto Rico and Andorra.

Someone in the Prime Minister's Office is not doing his homework; Andorra is a sovereign member of the UN, and the inhabitants of Puerto Rico are US citizens.

If Binyamin Netanyahu is prepared to grant Israeli citizenship to the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza and to have their community become a UN member it is hard to understand why he should object to granting them full statehood.

In any case, we should not exaggerate the capacity of Israel to determine the structure, identity and status of the neighboring community.

Israelis did not consult the previous colonial rulers on the question of its own statehood, nor did the American colonists ask George III for permission. Kissinger has estimated that international acceptance, which is the customary criterion for the recognition of states, would be unanimously supportive of the

admission of a Palestine state to the major international agencies.

When I presented my ambassadorial letters of credence to President Truman in September 1950 he said: "Your people gained their state because your leaders suggested what was practicable and your opponents did not."

By "your leaders" he meant Chaim Weizmann (he had overruled anyone else) and by "practical proposals" he meant Jewish and Arab states side by side.

In successfully advocating Israel's membership in all the international agencies, I said that "at every stage of Israel's relations with the Arab world we have felt equality of status to be the essential condition of partnership."

Chickens have an irritating habit of coming home to roost. If Israel's founders had wasted their own time and their audience's patience in bizarre allusions to Puerto Rico and Andorra on one would have taken them even half-seriously.

It is right that the Palestinians should have to pay a painful territorial price for their protracted reliance on radicalism and violence, but the structural logic of two sovereignties side by side with one of them - Israel - vastly preponderant in size and power has a viability that clearly dominates world opinion and is making progress with Israeli opinion as well.

Perhaps Kissinger is right again when he declares: "The longer this reality is evaded the less it can be used to enhance Israel's security. It is a card

which needs to be played sooner rather than later."

The most intelligent thing to do with inevitability is to stop avoiding it.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

POSTSCRIPT

POLITICIANS AND criminal psychopaths share some important behavioral characteristics, a leading British psychologist says.

"Psychopaths lie easily. They get pleasure from duping people whereas politicians lie for a purpose," David Cook, a lecturer at Glasgow's Caledonian University, said.

Cook and graduate student Lisa Marshall conducted a three-year study on the causes of psychopathic behavior, interviewing 105 repeat offenders in Scottish prisons.

They found that a combination of social and biological factors contributed to psychopathic behavior.

"To say politicians are psychopaths is a bit of a distortion," Cook said, but he acknowledged that the two groups appeared to share some similar behavior patterns.

"Psychopaths tend to be grandiose, they don't feel remorse, they don't feel guilt and they don't maintain stable relationships," he added.

Marshall said people in high-powered careers such as politics and stockbroking shared enough characteristics to be defined as psychopathic.

"They have the characteristics of psychopaths but without the criminal intent," she said.

Cook believes it will be difficult to scientifically prove that to be a successful politician a person needs to be a psychopath. "The trouble is there just isn't any data. Politicians and stockbrokers don't like to be studied," Cook said.

Where's the war?

THE sudden resignation of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair overshadowed the questions that kept Israelis awake at the beginning of this week: Is there going to be a war with Syria? And is the Arab world's political assault on us the run-up to a military confrontation?

Answers differed. It depended on whom one listened to. The opposition used the Syrian threat to belabor the government for not doing enough in the negotiations; the government professed puzzlement.

In the morning one would hear a (usually anonymous) "senior official" saying war was likely; by evening a government minister would be categorically denying that the Syrians could implement the military option.

Syria's own motives for creating the atmosphere that gave rise to all this are clear. It is constructing an international - and internal Israeli - lever that Hafez Assad hopes will pressure the government into withdrawing to the June 4, 1967 armistice lines.

Less understandable are the motives of the Israelis who have unwittingly been aiding and abetting Syria, harming, in the process, tourism to Israel, discouraging potential foreign investors and lowering public morale.

Amid the recent debate over reducing the IDF's budget the defense establishment conducted an information campaign that stressed the ongoing security threat. It did this so well that now one is talking about cutting the army's budget.

But it escaped the notice of the campaign's planners that while the IDF's budget didn't suffer the national spirit did, as Israelis began to fear for their very existence.

I cannot help being reminded of Chaim Weizmann's famous story of his grandmother praying for "warm frost," which would cause both her sons - one a merchant of summer wares, the other of winter goods - to prosper.

Needless to say, there is no such thing as warm frost. When Israelis become "heated," made fearful by assessments that our

MOSHE ZAK

neighbors are arming with the aim of launching a war, it's hard simultaneously to cool down those same fears.

Israel went on the alert when Assad moved commando units from Lebanon to Syria. It took measures to prevent a Syrian surprise attack, not letting up until American and French brokers relayed soothing messages from Damascus.

We are sensitive to troop movements on our borders; and the Syrians are sensitive to what gets said in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Speculation here over Syrian encroachment on the Golan aroused suspicion in Damascus that Israel was preparing a pre-emptive strike; this increased tension and escalated the warnings on both sides that have marked recent weeks.

The record shows that Assad prefers attrition by remote control to a frontal confrontation with Israel

WHAT will happen in the next century, which is virtually here, cannot be predicted. As things stand today, however, it is hard to see Syria willingly embroiling itself in a direct military confrontation with Israel.

In 1965 Syria looked the other way when Israeli planes bombed its machinery diverting water from the streams of the Jordan River. It stood by when Egypt and Jordan fought Israel in 1967.

It joined Egypt in launching the Yom Kippur War but two days later requested Soviet intervention for a cease-fire.

Finally it avoided an all-out confrontation with Israel during the Lebanon war, when IAF planes destroyed the Syrian missile formation.

What this shows is that, extremist rhetoric notwithstanding, Syria is reluctant to get involved in a war with Israel. This attitude has been its traditional one, and there is no evidence to suggest Assad will abandon it.

What it will go on doing, however, is harassing us by "remote control," via third parties.

It was from Damascus that the first PLO meo went out in January 1965 on terrorist missions to Israel.

And two years later Syria dragged Egypt into a confrontation with Israel, itself remaining on the sidelines.

In the last decade it has been using the terrorist Hizbullah (which receives \$100m. a year from Iran and training and logistical support from Syria) to harass us in Lebanon, all the while denying responsibility for its activities.

The Syrian war clouds that the media paints as looming above our heads won't drop any rain. The thunder is noisy, but it will die away. Syria's war of attrition against us via Hizbullah in Lebanon is more worrisome by far.

If Prime Minister Netanyahu is talking about resuming negotiations it is because Assad is aiming a loaded gun, in the form of Sagger missiles in Hizbullah terrorist hands, at his head.

The question Netanyahu should be asking himself is: What kind of negotiations can be conducted in this kind of atmosphere?

It is utterly pointless for Jerusalem to engage Damascus in a dialogue of warnings. All this talk about a war which is nowhere in sight does little to help the government in the international arena, and positively hinders it domestically.

It would be better for the government to focus on the very real, if limited, war of attrition going on in Lebanon and hold Syria to account for it.

And, it goes without saying, there should be no negotiations while Assad does nothing to stop that war.

It is well within his power to do so.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



The other side of heroism

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Badly trained, ill-equipped and numerically inferior the God-fearing Maccabee zealots stood no chance against the affluent pagans who converged on them from the north and the west.

In fact but for a series of miracles they and their faith would have been devoured.

That at any rate is how my kindergarten teacher Zehava put it when she told us the Hasmoneans' tales of martyrdom and heroism while we, adorned with candle-shaped paper banners, waited stolidly until we could storm the doughnuts dripping jam in the corner of the room.

Later in the army Yoel, our battalion commander, surveying the Latrun plain where some of the bloodiest battles of both Hasmonean and modern times took place, asserted that the Maccabees prevailed less because of their religion and more because they were great tacticians.

The titanic Zehava-Yoel clash of ideas notwithstanding, the truth is that one's interpretation of this chapter of Jewish history tends to reflect the Jewish present.

The fact is that to a contemporary Israeli the Maccabees may epitomize neither God's hand nor man's genius but the nearly pre-designed victory of indigenous guerrillas over theoretically stronger occupiers.

The term guerrilla - "small war" in Spanish - was born during Napoleon's occupation of the Iberian peninsula. There he encountered that time-boored weapon of the weak: sudden, stinging assaults on cumbersome, static and disoriented military units by lightly equipped, self-sufficient and highly-motivated fighters.

Such techniques have been utilized by numerous tribes, movements and nations from South Africa's Boers to Russia's Chechens. They resulted in such

achievements as the bludgeoning of the Nazis by Tito's partisans, the defeat of Fulencio Batista's Cuban forces by Fidel Castro's communist rebels and the FLN's expulsion of the French from Algeria.

When ragtag militias defeat the superior forces of organized states one tends to romanticize their "heroes" - whether Afghans who downed Soviet helicopters using slingshot technology, a Palestinian glider pilot who sin-

Even in the Talmud, which deals with Hanukka only in passing, some find an undertone of disillusionment with the ostensibly admired Maccabees. Most of Zehava's legendary miracles and all of Yoel's tales of heroism are missing.

WHETHER or not the Sages consciously disapproved of the Hasmonean dynasty there is no arguing that, with all due respect to their battlefield victories, the

If you think guerrillas make good statesmen look at the Hasmoneans

glanchedly raided an Israeli encampment outside Kiryat Shmona, or Jonathan the Maccabee, who crawled under a Greek general's battle elephant, stabbed it to death and died when it collapsed on top of him.

Guerrilla warfare is not only universally admired, it is perceived as the antithesis of terrorism, which - though often utilized by the very same guerrillas - is violence aimed at unarmed and often uninvolved civilians to promote a political cause.

The problem is that yesterday's efficient guerrillas are often today's inept statist and brutal oppressors.

Such, for instance, were Tito's Yugoslavia and the FLN's Algeria, each of which raised a postwar generation on the tricky guerrilla values of improvisation, rebellion and violence, ultimately to drown in homegrown bloodshed, misery and despair.

The former guerrilla rulers in Vietnam, China and Cuba all ended up as cocooned basket cases; in varying ways they are all now sheepishly crawling back to yesterday's antinomian faith of capitalism.

Building and running a state has little to do with sniping at soldiers, setting munitions bunkers ablaze and planting bombs in the way of supply convoys.

Modern Israel is lucky that a visionary "David" Ben-Gurion, who liked to remind generals that his own military career ended as an Ottoman sergeant, insisted on politically sidelining the charismatic military leaders of the 1948 victory.

Had he allowed those unseasoned, under-educated, romantic soldiers to take over, Israel too might have generated a Cuban-style economic backwater, an Algerian-like social disaster or a Yugoslavia-like political fiasco.

Which makes one wonder about the Palestinians, who in their skirmishes with the IDF have made skillful use of their intimate acquaintance with the nooks and crannies of the very same terrain on which the Maccabees fought the Greeks. In building their state they are now being oppressed by their own security forces.

Successful guerrillas, never mind terrorists, have never made visionary statesmen.

Precedent suggests that the Palestinians may end up no more successful than the assorted Yugoslavs, Vietnamese, Cubans, Algerians and Hasmoneans who, once the battle-fog dissipated, emerged as governmental fiascos.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Government by advisers

THIS week's Lisbon conference had one element in common with the Madrid conference that launched the peace process: In both cases Foreign Minister David Levy stayed home.

Binyamin Netanyahu, moving from the Foreign Ministry to the Prime Minister's Office, attended the Madrid conference with prime minister Shamir. At Lisbon he was at center stage, with an entourage of personal advisers.

At the same time that Netanyahu was meeting with Western leaders in Lisbon, this newspaper reported that talks on Hebron were suspended "as top Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molcho is not feeling well."

Molcho is Netanyahu's personal attorney. His official status is, to say the least, ambiguous.

Initially Netanyahu wanted Danny Naveh, presently cabinet secretary, to head up the Hebron negotiations. Levy's opposition led to the compromise choice of former chief of staff Dan Shomron.

Shomron seems to have topped out of sight in recent days. He is out occupied with oo-Hebroo issues. These are being handled by Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold.

Levy, of course, has not been out sitting idly by. While Netanyahu was in Lisbon meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, US Vice-President Al Gore and other world leaders and Molcho and Gold were looking after the cease process, the foreign minister talked matters over with a leading contender for leadership of the Labor Party, Haim Amon.

Recently the circle of Netanyahu advisers was enlarged by the addition of an adviser in matters of science. Criticism was directed at the prime minister's selection, Prof. Israel Hanokh, whose views and associations tend to the

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

political extreme.

MORE to the point is the question of why the prime minister requires a science adviser. One possibility is that Netanyahu would rather not consult with the science minister, Benny Begin.

Indeed, the prime minister's advisory staff is primarily concerned with matters that deal with the ministries controlled by the Likud and Geshet. They point up the basic political fact that Netanyahu is in the odd position of being undisputed party leader, but without a factional base he can call his own.

The *Jerusalem Post* once described Yitzhak Rabinstein, cabinet secretary under Yitzhak Shamir, as a Shamir supporter. Rabinstein angrily retorted in a letter to the editor that the post of cabinet secretary was non-political and that he was a career civil servant.

The result is a prime minister operating behind a smokescreen

Hence the impression that has characterized Netanyahu's political career from the outset, that of a man from overseas going home. Hence the importance of a political base in the Prime Minister's Office, particularly in those areas for which party rivals have ministerial responsibility.

In part, the prime minister's advisory apparatus is the detritus of his initial effort to establish a national security council and an economic advisory body within the Prime Minister's Office.

This element was highlighted by the recent appointment of Avraham (Abrasha) Tamir, former head of military planning under Sharon and former director-general of the Foreign Ministry under Peres, as a security adviser - not to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai but to the prime minister's foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold.

Gold's position (as well as his thought patterns) recalls Henry

Shakespeare's "ambassador" during the initial "services/Nixon" national security adviser. The American secretary of state at that time, William Rogers, had no personal political base and was completely dependent on the president.

Whether or not Gold is a Kissinger, Netanyahu is no Nixon. But the truly crucial element is that David Levy is no Rogers.

Netanyahu will have to reconcile himself to the reality of Israel's parliamentary system, in which ministers have bases of political power independent of the prime minister.

No one doubts that the Prime Minister's Office has become thoroughly politicized.

The *Jerusalem Post* once described Yitzhak Rabinstein, cabinet secretary under Yitzhak Shamir, as a Shamir supporter. Rabinstein angrily retorted in a letter to the editor that the post of cabinet secretary was non-political and that he was a career civil servant.

In fact, with the change to government in 1992, Rabinstein continued as cabinet secretary under Yitzhak Rabin. (Today he would make an excellent choice for the post of attorney-general.) No one, including incumbent Danny Naveh, would seriously make the claim that the present cabinet secretary is a non-political civil servant.

The real problem with the present prime ministerial establishment is not that it has been politicized, but rather that it has become so extremely personalized. As such it tends to isolate the prime minister rather than serve as a base of political power. In many ways, it operates as an elaborate smoke screen.

The French poet Charles Baudelaire was once asked why he smoked so much. His reply: "To put something between me and the world." Netanyahu seems to use his advisers the same way.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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Milosevic relents on private radio stations

SERBIAN President Slobodan Milosevic blinked yesterday in his showdown with the opposition, permitting a small independent radio station symbolizing the struggle for civic freedoms to go back on air.

B 92 radio, which has broadcast reports from anti-Milosevic protests, was shut down on Tuesday by officials who said it had no permission to operate.

Yesterday, Milosevic caved in to foreign and domestic pressure, and the radio station resumed operating at 7 p.m. with a live broadcast of a news conference announcing its resumption.

"Radio B 92 is back on the air again," said a statement from the station.

The resumption of B 92's broadcast followed a series of concessions Milosevic made Wednesday and yesterday in hopes of containing three weeks of protest over the annulment of elections that gave the opposition to Milosevic victories in some places.

The head of the Belgrade election commis-

MARK J. PORUBCANSKY
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia

sion, Radimir Lazarevic, told Belgrade's BK television that the commission was appealing the annulment of the November 17 vote.

If Lazarevic's appeal to the Supreme Court goes through, it could allow the opposition victory and defuse the protests.

Earlier in the day, another independent radio station, Radio Index, went back on air after having its transmissions jammed since Tuesday.

Belgrade newspapers also reported yesterday that the government would pay overdue October pensions with an increase of nearly 14 percent. Student loans and grants, also chronically behind, will be paid out in the next two weeks, the newspapers said.

State television reported late Wednesday a reduction in electricity prices, which were increased just before the local elections last

month.

Collectively, the moves indicated Milosevic was trying to compromise with opponents who have mounted their largest protests ever without giving away any real power.

Yesterday, more than 100,000 people took to the streets once more. They carried candles and tossed paper airplanes at government buildings. A car carried a near-life-size image of Milosevic in a prison uniform.

Editors at B 92 said they had received a fax from official Serbian radio and TV, whose transmitters they used, that they had been out of service due to technical problems.

Radio staff said they would continue to press for a written contract ensuring that the government cannot pull the plug on them again.

Veran Matic, the radio's chief editor, told The Associated Press that the resumption of broadcasting was "a big step for the democratic process in Serbia, and a sign ... for Serbia to begin serious democratic reforms."



French soldiers armed with automatic weapons stand guard on an underground platform yesterday. Some 1,800 troops are deployed in an emergency security plan codenamed 'Vigipirate' that was reactivated after Tuesday's bombing of an underground train in Paris.

Zairean rebels thrust north and west

KASINDI, Zaire (Reuters) - Zairean rebels pushed north and west towards towns held by the Zairean army yesterday and Ugandan troops patrolled the streets of at least one Zairean town which they seized last week.

Travelers arriving in the eastern Zairean town of Kasindi from the frontlines to the north said rebels were advancing towards the towns of Watsa and Istro and the northeastern regional capital of Kisangani, Zaire's fourth largest city.

"Wherever they reach, the local population celebrates and many Zairean soldiers join their ranks," said one man from the town of Beni, which the rebels said they had seized last week.

"In the Beni and Bunia areas, civilians were celebrating the fall of the towns," he added.

The rebels said they seized Bunia on Saturday and Ugandan military sources said it fell on Monday.

Residents of another town east of Kasindi however said they heard Bunia was still occupied by rampaging Zairean troops.

Ugandan troops, backed by artillery, clearly held

Kasindi despite Ugandan military spokesmen saying Ugandan troops only pushed three km. into Zaire last week in hot pursuit of Moslem Ugandan rebels.

A commander in the Ugandan army, the Ugandan People's Defense Forces said: "UPDF troops will pull out of the Zairean towns of Kasindi and Virunga in two days' time."

"We have crushed the [Ugandan] rebels and it is time to go home. But the Zairean government must give us assurances that rebels will not continue attacking us from Zairean territory."

Kisindi is 10 km. west of the Ugandan border.

In Butembo, a member of the rebel-held town's crisis committee, a collection of local civil authorities, described the fighting style of the Zairean rebel gunmen, known as the Alliance of Democratic Force for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

"What the alliance does is make the Mai-Mai go in front of them, then [the alliance fighters] come behind them fighting. What always happens is that when the Mai-Mai are about 15 km. away, the Zaireans, the enemy, flee," he said.

Swiss party wants banks to pay out lost accounts

ZURICH (Reuters) - A Swiss government coalition party said yesterday it would ask parliament next week to create a fund for Jewish and charitable groups from unclaimed Swiss bank accounts left by Holocaust victims and other owners.

It would be the first move at federal level to make a financial gesture to Holocaust victims since Switzerland came under pressure last year over Jewish claims it profited from the Holocaust.

Meanwhile, Swiss diplomatic envoy Thomas Borer hit back at US Senator Alfonse D'Amato yesterday, saying the American politician had used unverified documents to accuse Switzerland of having helped Nazis to conceal their wealth.

Borer has emerged as his country's primary spokesman on the issue after being named by Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti in October to head a task force charged with countering a wave of negative publicity abroad.

Christian Kauter, general secretary of the conservative Radical Democrats (FDP), said his party's parliamentary faction would propose a federal decree forcing banks to create the fund with about 40 million Swiss francs in ownerless assets found in a recent search.

"We are proposing a binding federal decree under which the unclaimed assets would be paid into a fund and this money would go to Jewish organizations, for example," Kauter said.

Kauter said it must still be decided who exactly would get the money and how much, saying other charities might also share in the proceeds.

"The money is primarily intended for Jewish organizations, but first we have to know how much of it stems from Jewish accounts," he said.

Berne is setting up a broad historical enquiry into Switzerland's wartime role as a financial center. Final parliamentary approval for a commission of independent historians and other experts is expected next week. Swiss banks and Jewish groups are running a separate probe focused on the fate of dormant accounts.

Borer's task force also has swung into action. He said yesterday he regretted that D'Amato continues to attack Switzerland on the basis of individual documents from US World War II archives which had not been counter-checked by historians.

D'Amato, a New York Republican, released a State Department report on Wednesday that he said raised suspicions that German Nazis routinely used Swiss diplomatic pouches to send looted wealth secretly to Argentina during World War II.

Berne has asked D'Amato and other critics to tone down their attacks.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing in Chicago of our dear brother

BEN ZION FRIEDLANDER

his sisters:
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Meeting at the entrance to the cemetery at 9:30 a.m.
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The university extends deepest sympathies to Serafina, the children and grandchildren, Isidore, and the entire family.
May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Anglicans, Catholics to consult on future course

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope John Paul and Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey said yesterday women priests had created a serious problem between their churches and called for fresh consultations on how it would affect future dialogue.

"The obstacle to reconciliation caused by the ordination of women as priests and bishops in some provinces of the Anglican Communion has also become increasingly evident, creating a new situation," the two said in a common declaration.

"In view of this it may be opportune at this stage in our journey to consult further about how the relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church is to progress."

US memo: Goering, other Nazis smuggled fortune in Swiss pouches

GENEVA (AP) - An independent panel will investigate reports that Swiss diplomatic pouches were used by Nazis during World War II to funnel assets to South America, a top Swiss official said yesterday.

Thomas G. Borer, a Foreign Ministry lawyer who heads the Swiss government's task force on Holocaust assets, denied any knowledge of the reports cited in a 1946 US diplomatic memo. But he said an independent research commission now being created by parliament will check the reports.

"No allegations of that kind are known to us," he told the Associated Press. "It cannot be excluded that at some time a diplomatic pouch was misused." It is not known when the inde-

pendent panel would begin functioning.

A 1946 State Department memo says Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering may have used Swiss businessmen with diplomatic clearance to funnel his \$20 million fortune into Argentina.

The memo was found in the National Archives and made public Wednesday by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican. In a letter to the Swiss Embassy, D'Amato urged an investigation to "get to the bottom of this explosive issue."

Goering, the German Luftwaffe (air force) head, was one of several top echelon Nazis who sent assets to South America inside Swiss diplomatic pouches during World War II, according to the 1946 memo from Austria by American Consul General Laurence G. Frank.

"It is reported that Reichsmarshal Goering lately used this method to transfer personal funds," the memo stated. "According to these reports, Goering previously sent more than \$20 million of his personal fortune to Argentina."

David Vogelsanger, press officer at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, dismissed the memo as "pure hearsay."

British Air ends policy excluding Jews from London lounge

ALBANY, NY (Reuters) - British Airways has decided to stop excluding Jews from a lounge for Middle East travelers at London's Heathrow Airport, from which a New York prosecutor was asked to leave while praying, officials said on Wednesday.

New York Attorney General Dennis Vacco said the airline disclosed its new policy in a letter to the prosecutor, Aaron Tyk, who had been told in October by an employee at the lounge that it "was not for Jews." Tyk was en route to the US following a vacation in Israel.

In the letter, a British Airways general manager Barbara Cassani said, "To avoid any future misunderstanding, we have simplified our rules and clarified that the Oasis Lounge is available to all transferring passengers to and from the Middle East, including Israel."

British Airways initially denied the incident happened, and then gave differing explanations. It first said that Israel was not considered a Middle Eastern destination for the lounge's purposes, and then said Tyk did not have the correct ticket for the lounge, even though Tyk said the employee who had asked him to leave did not check his travel documents.

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Ms. Lill Weil, and her family
on the loss of her

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A man of vision and accomplishments

מן השמים תנוחו

Malke Bina and the MaTan family



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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, December 6, 1996

Up from Palestinian sewage spews ... politics

Sewage from the autonomous areas is threatening Israel's main aquifers, writes Liat Collins

If politics is dirty, this is about as low as it gets. Sewage from autonomous areas is being allowed to flow untreated into water sources, streams, and the underground reserves, because the Palestinian Authority is reluctant to cooperate with Israel in building waste-water treatment plants.



there are some 1,250,000 residents who each produce some 40 cubic meters of sewage a year. The Yarkon-Tarim aquifer is refilled by some 350 million cubic meter a year, of which 10 percent is wastewater, about 40 million cubic meters. And that's very worrying," says Blum.

Levy notes that the sewage also affects popular hiking routes and nature reserves, and could affect tourism. Looking at the sewage flowing freely out of Beit Sahur, he says: "It's a sensitive spot. The untreated wastewater is definitely entering the underground water sources. This is one of the most sensitive areas for water reserves for the whole of Israel. When there is a breakdown in pipes you can actually see the sewage coming out of the natural springs a few days later."

The Israelis agree that the only solution is joint action with the Palestinians, but they are waiting for Sh'ath to take action. Eitan told the Knesset plenum Wednesday: "If the Palestinian Authority doesn't answer our request for cooperation we will carry out the projects essential to protect the environment in Israel and the residents of the territories ourselves, and I will act to deduct the costs from the money forwarded by the government to the authority."

"It's a political act," says Tarif. "This is political pollution. They are using sewage as ammunition." He says the damage to health from the untreated sewage is potentially as damaging as terror attacks. Blum is more reticent, but has an important message for the Palestinians, noting that the environmental and health hazards do not recognize artificial borders: "Perhaps they are playing politics with pollution," he says, "but they're just hurting themselves."

sonings in Nahal Alexander are the result of sewage spills from the autonomous areas.

OBJECTIVE problems aside, environmentalists say there is definitely a political hurdle. "Our feeling - in fact it's more than just a feeling - is that the Palestinian Authority is not interested in cooperating with us," says Nitza Levy, director of the Judea Region Towns Association for the Environment. Eitan made the same accusation in the Knesset, calling on Nabil Sha'ath, in charge of environmental affairs for the PA, to resume joint projects in the spirit of the Oslo Accords. Eitan, Levy, and Blum all cite several examples of lack of cooperation.

In Nablus, a research survey by sewage was completed but the recommendations, by an Israeli planner, were not accepted by the Palestinian Authority. It says it is studying the issue afresh, but

meantime the sewage is flowing into Nahal Alexander.

Ramallah has facilities which are about 15 years old and cannot cope with the current quantities of sewage, but the local municipality has rejected suggestions that it links up with the Jerusalem system to solve the problem.

As usual, Hebron is an extreme example of the inability to reach an agreement. The Civil Administration was in the process of establishing a plant to treat wastewater - and had invested NIS 3 million in the project - when the Hebron municipality stopped cooperating, Blum says. The pumping station has been built, but the second stage, which would pipe the sewage to a treatment plant in Yaffa, is stalled.

Levy says the reason for the stalling is the objections by Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe to Jewish farmers in the Yaffa area receiving some of the treated

water. "The funds for the project exist but the whole business is at a full stop. We can't further it because they won't agree to it. Even if we build it ourselves with our own money, they won't let us take the sewage," Levy said. "Meantime, the sewage continues to pollute Nahal Hebron, pollute the aquifer, and probably also the water drilling wells. The situation is critical. We're talking about sewage from some 150,000 residents."

Blum notes that the municipality would not even agree to an equal distribution of the treated sewage.

ANOTHER example of stalling has resulted in the sewage flow that is reaching Nahal Dragut from east Bethlehem, Beit Sahur, and Beit Jalla. With German aid, the towns were connected to a sewage

system which increased the quantities of waste water. Germany is also willing to finance a project, costing between \$70m. and \$100m., to establish a treatment plant - on condition it is a joint project involving both Israel and the Palestinians. Former environment minister Yossi Sarid signed the necessary forms nearly two years ago but the Palestinians have yet to sign their consent. Without their signature, the aid available cannot be utilized.

"The wastewater is intended to be treated and used in agriculture in the Kidron area. Unfortunately, today they exploit the waters as they are," says Blum. "It's difficult to make demands when there is no money, but here it has been clearly stated that the money exists. All they have to do is submit the joint request form."

The urgent need for action is clear. Villagers in the area suffer from mosquitoes and diarrhea from the sewage flowing through, and by, their homes. But the real health hazard stems from the amount of sewage clogging the underground water resources and aquifers. Tahal (the water planning company) examined the aquifer in the Herodian area just over a year ago and found clear indications that pollutants had entered it, Blum says. "This should light up a red light for both the Palestinian Authority and us."

"In Judea and Samaria alone

Micha Blum, the staff officer for environmental affairs in the Civil Administration, notes that neither the problem nor the solutions are new. The greatest problem from an environmental point of view are the large towns which have facilities to collect the sewage but fail to treat it. In these cases, large quantities of effluent pour out of pipelines directly into wadis and, from there, reach rivers and underground water supplies.

The population almost doubles every 15 years, which leads to a tremendous increase in sewage, Blum says. When this is combined with new plumbing and sewage systems which also increase water consumption, the output is more than the plants can deal with.

"Over the years, the Civil Administration built several facilities and created a master plan for the whole of Judea and Samaria, but most of the facilities have become outdated and need renovations. In some cases, the renovations have been carried out but the plants are not operated," Blum says. He cites Jenin as an example. Although a plant there was renovated at a cost of some NIS 3 million nearly two years ago, it remains unused and the sewage from the town flows in the direction of the Kishon River.

Even the newer facilities find it difficult to cope with the tremendous increase in sewage they need to handle, and the overflow spills out. The recent massive fish poi-

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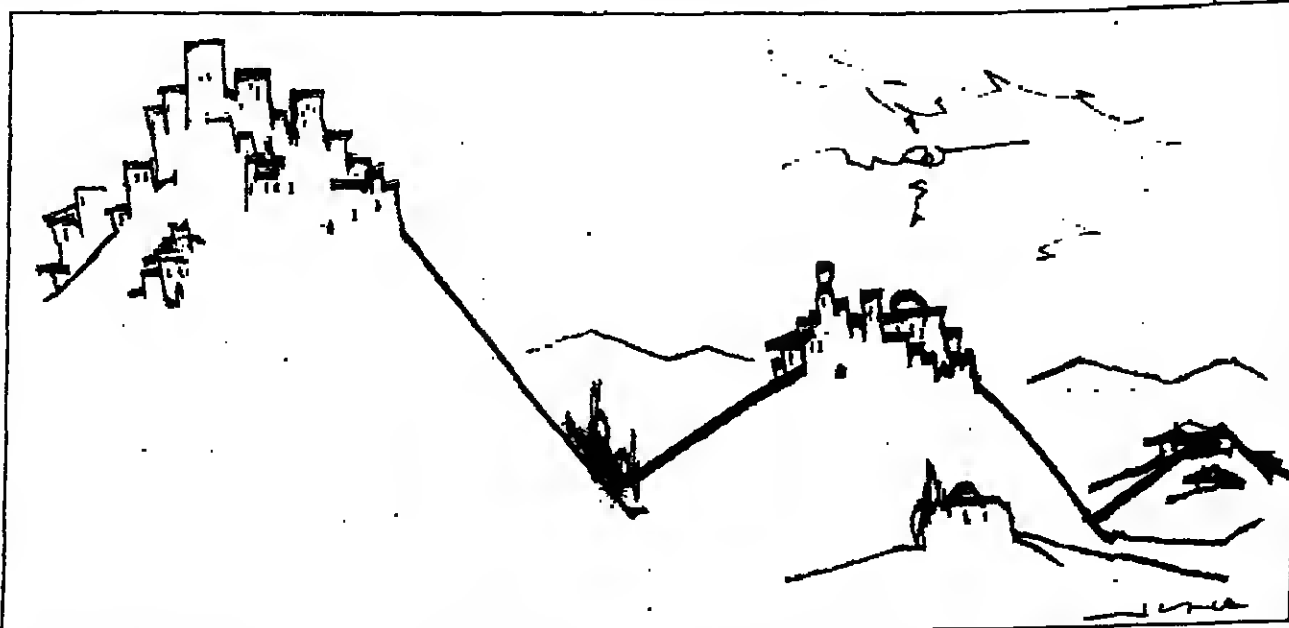
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ISRAEL TRANSPLANT Ministry of Health

Fed up with gestures, Israel's Arabs demand equality

An embattled government could be in for more problems on the home front. David Rudge reports



WITH Israel already under intense diplomatic pressure from Arab countries, the seemingly embattled government might soon be facing another source of potential trouble, this time from among some Israeli Arabs.

While the stalemate in the peace process, which has temporarily dashed hopes for a speedy resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is also a cause for concern among the Arab community, of far more concern for the country's nearly 900,000 Arabs are the issues that affect their day-to-day life, in particular their ambition of someday achieving a status of equality.

Their expectations were raised during the tenure of the previous administration, only to be dealt a crushing blow by what they see as the reactionary policies of the present government.

Development projects including the construction of new roads, parks and pavements, the installation of street lighting, and the start of work on establishing sewerage networks to stop the flow of effluent in the streets, have changed the face of many Arab towns and villages in the past few years. Efforts were also made to promote the development of industry and particularly tourism to help boost job prospects in the Arab sector where the percentage of those below the official poverty line is still higher than the national average.

Arab leaders also pointed to improvements in the education service, with the construction of new classrooms to replace unsuitable rented accommodation, and efforts to raise the standard of learning in Arab schools.

Dr. Elie Rekhess, head of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center's Program on Arab Politics in Israel, noted that the

expectations of the Arab community had been further raised immediately after the elections.

"Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in the period immediately after his election, made a number of goodwill gestures to the Arab population, promising equality and progress," said Rekhess. "One of the first places he visited was Taiba in the Triangle where he pledged that he would put an end to discrepancies between Jews and Arabs."

"These promises, however, have remained on the declarative level and as a result nothing like a love relationship has developed between the Likud-led government and the Arab community. On the contrary, there are alarming signs of growing alienation and tension. From the Arab perspective, this government was elected on the basis of the slogan 'Only Netanyahu is good for the Jews,' which raises concern in their eyes that the issue of delegitimization of the Arabs is on the agenda."

Rekhess maintained that the subsequent policies of the government and statements by leading ministers had reinforced the feeling among the Arabs that they had genuine cause for concern. These included the re-establishment after it was abolished several years ago, of the position of the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs and that of Arab affairs minister which was given to Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav.

"In contrast to the Labor-led administration, which adopted a liberal policy and demonstrated openness to the Arab sector, this government is not giving the issue any priority," said Rekhess. "The obvious reason is that the previous government needed the support of the Arabs to form a blocking majority in the

Knesset, whereas this government can afford to ignore them.

"The question of Israeli Arabs was mentioned in the Likud election campaign and in the government's policy guidelines, but in a marginal way and in a context which the Arabs perceive as a return to the policies of the 1950s."

"There was a commitment to promote the full integration of minorities in Israel, but the government emphasized that special efforts would be made to advance minorities that joined their fate with that of the Jewish people and the State of Israel and those who served in the State's security forces."

"The government also promised, in its guidelines, to increase the budgets of Arab councils and absorb a larger number of Arab academics in government ministries. No mention, however, was made of the notion of equality, or treating the housing, welfare and education problems, the issue of unrecognized

Arab villages, Wakf property, the Beduin land problem and other pertinent issues."

CHANGES IN the Arab sector in light of the peace process, the Knesset elections and the establishment of a Likud-led government were the focus of discussion during a two-day conference at Tel Aviv University this week on the "Dilemma of identity of Arabs in Israeli politics."

It was noted at the conference, organized by the university's program on Arab politics in cooperation with the Adenauer Foundation, that the past 20 years have seen a progressive trend towards "Israelization" of the country's Arab community.

According to Rekhess, this trend might now be in jeopardy, judging by the reaction of Israeli Arab leaders in particular and the Arab community in general to the policies of the government. He noted that the Israeli Arab leadership had warmly welcomed the abolition of the

adviser on Arab affairs position as a positive step towards the full integration of the community, and an end to the patronizing attitude of the past.

"They were highly critical of the re-establishment of this post and also harshly rejected the re-introduction by Netanyahu of the term minorities which they interpret as a sign of a divide-and-rule policy," said Rekhess. "In practical terms, the government has taken only a few decisions affecting the Arab sector, by appointing National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharoo to head a ministerial panel to probe Beduin land claims and the matter of permanent housing, following repeated clashes between Beduin and police. The Housing Ministry also decided to allow increased mortgages for Arabs."

"At the same time the Housing Ministry published a controversial report in October saying Arabs will outnumber Jews in Galilee within 20 years. The

ministry was instructed to prepare an emergency plan in which land in Galilee would be earmarked for habitation by tens of thousands of Jews by 2020.

"The last time plans to Judaize Galilee were declared two decades ago, the outcome was an explosion in the form of the first Land Day demonstrations in 1976 which resulted in riots and fatalities."

According to Rekhess, Israeli Arabs have become increasingly frustrated over the government's policies both towards them and their Palestinian brethren in the territories. "The level of frustration could be clearly seen by the reaction of the Israeli Arabs to the opening of the Jerusalem tunnel and the riots the ensued," he said.

"Furthermore, the financial situation of Arab councils has worsened. They have accumulated debts totalling over NIS 400 million and budgets are now being drastically cut, instead of the improvements they were promised."

Israeli Arab council heads intend to pitch a protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday which will be manned 24 hours a day for an indefinite period to press the government to bail out the local authorities. They intend to invite foreign ambassadors to the tent and present them with documents outlining the problems of the Arab sector in general and the councils in particular.

"There is no doubt that against this background, the potential for escalation exists."

"Continuous disregard for the pressing needs of the Arab population on the one hand, and the introduction of a policy making socioeconomic progress conditional on the loyalty of the minorities to the state, could well result in a deterioration of the situation."

"The outcome could be even more problematic if one adds to the domestic problems the potential manifestation of nationalist solidarity with West Bank and Gaza Palestinians if the stalemate in the peace process continues and the intifada reignites," warned Rekhess.

Shooting from the lip

Words in the Arab-Israeli verbal conflict are unlikely to evolve into actions. Barry Rubin reports

Palestinians but by their own self-interest.

This analysis also shows why Syria rejected Israeli offers to return the Golan, preferring to sabotage talks and continue terrorism. It sees any peace treaty with Israel as a dire danger to its most basic interests, which include regional hegemony as well as influence over Jordan and the Palestinians; stifling US power in the region; and control over Lebanon. Also, Syria would gain little or no Western aid and investment if a peace treaty is signed, and anyhow, Syria would lose its useful status in the Arab world as the most militant confrontation state. Domestically, a treaty could weaken the minority dictatorship's control over its own people.

Consequently, trying to mobilize the Arab world against Israel

both reduces Damascus's isolation and gives it the perfect way to oppose any progress toward peace.

HOWEVER, the vast majority of Arab states - even today - want peace with Israel to succeed. This policy has special appeal to the least powerful states. Lacking regional ambitions, these countries feel far less threatened by Israel becoming a factor in the regional power equation. On the contrary, they see this as something that can be used to their commercial or strategic advantage, to protect them from extremists and strengthen links to their main defender, the United States.

The action of the peace camp was legitimized by Israel's progress in making peace with the Palestinians. Even now, the moderates will continue to restrain the

Arab world from returning to the old, high-priority, war-oriented approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Their own fragility and preoccupation with their own internal and local problems, as well as used for US support, makes them resist too much militancy.

The problem, however, is that they are less willing and able to stand up against pressure from bigger states. They will not reject an Arab consensus to freeze relations based on a credible claim that Israel is taking a tougher line on the peace process and may not implement the solution Arabs prefer.

Aside from inter-Arab pressure and a possible threat from domestic public opinion, the national and regime interests of these states complement those of Israel. All of these states oppose the spread of revolutionary Islamic movements or the radical regime's power. They prefer a strong, active US presence, and a peaceful, stable region. These common interests with Israel provide a strong basis for good relations.

Jordan has a stronger national interest in allying with Israel than any other Arab state, and for good reasons - Israel gives Amman a counterweight to threats from Iraq, Iran, and Syria; the two states have common interests on the Palestinian issue; and the Jordan-Israel relationship strengthens US-Jordan links.

Thus, Amman works in Arab circles - as at the June Arab summit - to tone down hostility toward Israel. But, like the other smaller countries, it does not want to become too isolated in the Arab world, or stir up the antagonism of other states. It will maintain good relations with Israel but may be tougher in rhetoric and constrained in behavior.

In contrast, Egypt has closer relations to the PA than any other country - as its patron and international lobbyist. Still, Mubarak is mainly concerned with preserving his own country's interests, asserting Egypt's leadership over the Arab world, preserving good relations with the West, and avoiding a major confrontation with Israel.

Here is a paradox: On one hand, Mubarak wants a rapidly progressing Arab-Israeli peace process, while, on the other hand, Egypt sees Israel's integration into the Middle East as a potential threat, building up a rival to its own aspirations. Mubarak's government was nervous at the creation of virtual Israeli alliances with Turkey and Jordan. Therefore, while supporting the peace talks, Egypt also makes disproportionately strong criticisms of Israel, and prefers a cooler peace between Israel and Arab states.

Mubarak also knows that a critical stand toward Israel and opposition to Israel's conciliation with other Arab states can strengthen his own domestic support while rallying the Arab world around Cairo's leadership. Furthermore, as long as it is restricted to words, it costs little. Nevertheless, Mubarak wants to avoid a war, real crisis, or a break with Washington. Thus, while Egypt sees continued peace with Israel as being in its own interest, it has

ambiguous feelings about Israel's relations with the other Arab states and certainly opposes them without a successful comprehensive - or at least Israel-Palestinian - settlement.

If Israel appears moderate, flexible and peace-oriented, it confirms the more benign image held by the peace camp. If Israel takes a tougher line, the radicals and the PA reiterate the old line that Israel is aggressive, intransigent, and impossible to deal with through diplomacy. Egypt is ready to go in either direction, depending on what happens.

THE MODERATES are embarrassed when Israel does not meet the alternate image they have partly accepted. They may not care very much about the details of negotiations but simply want an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict; to avoid being dragged into the conflict or having to spend more resources fighting it; to cease being the target of radical forces or states; to preserve a pious and nationalistic domestic image; and to avoid returning to the old era of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, when there was all-out conflict.

The moderates support an independent Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem. But they are indifferent (except for Jordan) as to boundary lines or other details of an agreement.

Radical states shout loudly but ineffectively. Egypt is determined to place itself at the head of a campaign against Israel's current policy.

Smaller, moderate states want to limit any crisis, but reluctantly respond to pressure in slowing or freezing normalization with Israel. In short, a great deal of potential progress is being lost, but this does not mean a return to the era of wars and crisis.

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Can children learn tolerance while being called 'Nazis'?



President of the ZOA Morton Klein (left) and Anti-Defamation League National Director Abraham Foxman are on opposite sides when it comes to Thomas Friedman.

Anti-Defamation League defamed?

The decision to invite journalist Thomas Friedman to address the Anti-Defamation League has sparked controversy, reports Tom Tugend from Los Angeles

WHEN the Anti-Defamation League's regional chapter hosts its annual dinner-dance in Los Angeles this Sunday, the usual good fellowship will be spiced by a controversy over the evening's keynote speaker.

He is Thomas L. Friedman, the *New York Times*'s well-known foreign-affairs columnist, whose appearance has been sharply attacked by Morton A. Klein, national president of the Zionist Organization of America.

In a letter to Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, Klein described Friedman as a man "who regularly defames Israel and its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," and asked that the journalist's appearance be cancelled.

Klein appended a list of 13 alleged anti-Israel statements and actions by Friedman, starting with a recent Friedman observation that "all Netanyahu has done is polarize Israeli society and lead it into a dead end," and going back to 1974, when Friedman was a student at Brandeis University.

In a sharp response to Klein, Foxman said that the ADL was proud to present Friedman, "a responsible, knowledgeable, and incisive commentator on the [Middle East] region... whose opinions are always expressed within the context of support for the State of Israel."

Foxman upbraided Klein for his repeated personal attacks, not only on Friedman and the ADL director himself, but on US diplomats Strobe Talbott and Martin Indyk, and writer Leonard Fein.

In his next move, Klein issued an "Action Alert" to ZOA leaders and "friends of Israel around the US," urging them to protest Friedman's appearance to the ADL.

That did it for Foxman, who urged that Klein be expelled from the organized Jewish world. "Mr. Klein can invite anyone he wants, but we don't need this kind of thought police in the Jewish community," said Foxman.

"He has lowered the discourse to a new level of personal intolerance and it is time that people stood up to this kind of behavior."

Klein characterized Foxman's statement as "hysterical." In the latest development, eight present and past ZOA leaders asked the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations to reprimand Foxman for his statements and request an apology to Klein.

The letter charged that Foxman had violated an agreement, signed last year by most Jewish organizations, to assure "civility of debate and behavior" and refrain from "verbal violence and

demeaning characterizations [that] violate basic Jewish tenets."

Signatories to the letter, including five past national ZOA presidents, found it "ironic that an organization devoted to fighting defamation is now itself engaged in defamation."

Still, what might have passed as a tiff between two outspoken men of different political views, took on an international flavor when David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's communications director and one of the prime minister's top aides, also weighed in against Friedman.

"Friedman's whole history is that of an anti-Zionist," Bar-Ilan said by phone from Jerusalem. "Any organization that purports to be Zionist should not give him a platform."

"His whole writing indicates a patronizing attitude toward the 'natives' [Israelis]," Bar-Ilan continued. "It would perhaps be palatable for the ADL to present him in a debate with a pro-Zionist."

"As editor of *The Jerusalem Post* before joining the Netanyahu administration, Bar-Ilan wrote a regular column, 'Eye on the Media,' which was generally highly critical of the way the foreign media reported on Israel."

Told of Bar-Ilan's remarks, Foxman responded that "it's a sad day for Israel, when the prime minister's spokesman issues an advisory on who is or isn't an appropriate speaker."

"Is he ready to issue an enemy's list? And were we wrong to give a platform to Mr. Netanyahu when he was in opposition to the Israeli government?"

In a phone conversation, Friedman spoke generally off the record, indicating that he did not want to elevate some "fringe individuals" by getting into a public debate with Klein.

He said he was looking forward to speaking at the ADL dinner, at which 1,500 people are expected. Apparently, Klein's attacks are having some effect. Foxman said he was being deluged by an organized campaign of phone calls, faxes and e-mail opposing Friedman's appearance.

In Los Angeles, David Lehrer, the regional ADL director, said he had received a few anti-Friedman calls "from the usual suspects."

In addition, two full-page ads, both citing the ZOA's indictment of Friedman's "anti-Zionism," are scheduled to appear in today's issue of the *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*.

With but few exceptions, ADL supporters on the East and West coasts appeared to back their leadership in inviting Friedman, said Foxman.

Children at the Adam School in Jerusalem are getting a very different sort of education outside the school grounds. Ruth Mason reports

SOME Jerusalem truths are stranger than fiction. After several months of sometimes violent attacks by haredim against the secular Adam School in the haredi Bnei Rand neighborhood, an unusual solution has been found: The school will move into a new building and a now-homeless haredi school will move in alongside them.

The development shows what the secular public often overlooks: The haredi public is not homogeneous.

Since September, when the Adam School moved into a building found for them by the Jerusalem municipality, local haredim have been conducting what teachers and parents call a campaign of intimidation and sabotage.

In their efforts to have the school moved or, better yet, closed, they have held mass demonstrations as well as daily prayer vigils complete with shofar-blowing by the playground. Almost daily, someone has cut off the school's water supply. Although the municipality sends a plumber to restore it, the children are without running water and flushing toilets for most of the school day.

And one morning, teachers arrived to find that kerosene-soaked rags had been thrown through a window, and a curtain burned.

"They told us a big witch with a huge eye will come and eat us," said one second grader, of the haredi women who gather to say psalms daily by the school fence during recess. "They tell us we're dogs and that the school lies to us," his friend added. "They call us Nazis," a third child said.

Why are local haredim so enraged by the presence of this school? The Adam School is Jerusalem's first Waldorf school. Like their peers throughout Israel, third graders here learn reading, writing, and arithmetic. But they also learn to knit, sew and crochet, to recite poetry, grow vegetables, grind wheat into flour, bake bread, play the recorder and violin, speak English and Arabic, and to respect differences. The classrooms are painted in warm colors and are decorated with colorful silk cloths, baskets, fresh flowers, driftwood and sea shells. Children say they love going to school here.

Waldorf schools (there are two others in Israel) are based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, scientist, artist, and reported clairvoyant who at the beginning of this century formulated a spiritual science he called anthroposophy, or the study of man. In the last 70 years, anthroposophy has given rise to an educational method with 2,000 schools around the world, a form of organic farming called biodynamic agriculture (those Kibbutz Haruf products at your local health food store), a dance form (eurythmy), a style of architecture and a medical system.

Neighborhood haredim point out that Rudolf Steiner was a Christian. They have called the school a "missionary group" and a "cult," on television, in haredi newspapers, and in flyers distributed to school parents and posted in the neighborhood. Unlike the arson attempt which did little damage, attacks linking the school to Nazis and missionaries have spread like wildfire among area residents.



Above: Haredim pray outside the fence of the Adam School; at left, their female counterparts do the same. Children attending the school complained about being called 'Nazis' and 'dogs.'

"This is a missionary school," insists Zina Keren, a haredi woman who prays every morning in a small synagogue opposite the school, "while others mocked in agreement. How does she know this? 'We heard,' she says.

"There were big rabbis here. They wouldn't say something that wasn't true."

MAYOR EHUD Olmert differs with the haredim assessment. In a letter to haredi deputy mayor Uri Maklev (Degel Hatorah), he wrote, "The Adam School functions in the spirit of Jewish values and the traditions of Israel. To a great extent, the school stresses Jewish studies more than regular [i.e. secular] schools. Still, the municipality bowed to haredi pressure and asked the school to move."

Deputy Mayor Rabbi Haim Miller, who had opposed state recognition of the Adam School, wrote in a recent memo to the Adam Association, which runs the school, that his opposition was made before he had a chance to "study the matter in depth."

It was Miller who approached the Adam School and asked if they would mind sharing the new building with a haredi institution.

Dr. Itay Zimran, dean of the David Yellin Teachers' College, says Waldorf education is "very value-oriented and very ethical. They relate to children in a very humanitarian way. To call them missionaries is meaningless nonsense."

Professor Shlomo Hasson, a Hebrew University expert on haredi-secular relations in Jerusalem, sees the struggle over the Adam School in the larger context of a haredi attempt to make Jerusalem over into a halachic enclave. "The haredim don't believe in civil rights," he said. "They want to impose Halacha in all areas of life, not just family law, but how we

dress, how we teach, how we interpret Judaism." It is a typical haredi strategy, he says, to delegitimize those they oppose by using slogans like "Nazis" and "missionaries."

Hasson recently conducted a study which found that 60 percent of Jerusalem's secular residents are considering leaving the city for fear of a haredi takeover, and 13.5 percent of them have either bought or are looking for apartments outside Jerusalem.

But these secular residents may be cheered by the fact that respected haredi rabbi Shmuel Auerbach, head of the Ma'lot Hatorah Yeshiva, approved the move of the school. "I support the school for haredi children with learning disabilities into the Alliance Israélite Universelle building near the market alongside the Adam School, Aharon Rottenberg, educational supervisor of Tzofnat Pa'aneah, called the haredim who protested against the Adam School 'extremists.' "I don't know if haredi Judaism supports cutting off water," he said.

DESPITE the disturbances, children at the Adam School continue to learn by doing. During a recent arithmetic lesson, first graders were handed small white boxes and asked to fill them with 25 pretty stones from the playground. They then decorated their boxes, counted the stones out loud together and divided them into five piles of five. In a third-grade unit on earth sciences, the children plant and tend a wheat field. And in second grade, arithmetic drills are done to the accompaniment of skipping and jumping or playing catch with bean bags.

Waldorf educators say they aim to educate the whole child - not just his mind, but his body, emotions and soul. They stress physical activity, as well as music, art, crafts, story-telling, work with the

hands and, perhaps most grating to some haredim, a universalist approach to the world.

After four years of struggle and three moves, the school, which was founded by a group of local parents, has been granted state-school status by the Ministry of Education, and the teachers now receive their salaries from the government.

In September, the Waldorf teachers' seminary, which has been operating independently for four years and has 70 students, officially became a program of the established and prestigious David Yellin Teachers' Seminary.

While it is true that Waldorf schools in predominantly Christian countries have Christian elements in them, Waldorf educators in Israel said they teach Israeli culture and the Jewish religion just as Waldorf schools in Egypt teach Islam and Waldorf schools in Japan teach Japanese heritage.

The teachers in Jerusalem, who are all native Israelis, say there is nothing Christian about their school. But Tzvi Cohen, head of the missionary department of the haredi organization Yad L'Ahim (aid to the poor) said he is not convinced. "It [Waldorf education] comes from anthroposophy, and anthroposophy has Christian elements. You can't just take part of something and reject the rest."

"Steiner established a spiritual science, not a religion," said Amir Geller, a former kibbutznik and teacher in the school. "He had a lot to say about all the religions. But there is a clear distinction and separation between everything connected to world-view and the educational approach."

THE WALDORF insinuations this reporter has seen in Israel seem to have more Jewish content than the average secular school. Shabbat is marked with songs, candle-lighting

and blessings. In the kindergartens and some classes, the spirit of each holiday is entered into deeply for weeks leading up to the actual day.

Starting in third grade, children receive their own Torah, which they keep in reverently decorated, hand-made velvet bags. Many of the poems and songs that the children sing and declaim at the start of each school day are full of Jewish content and images. Several American Jewish foundations are urging the school to formalize its hands-on approach to Jewish studies so it can be used as a model in other schools.

Haim Tal, father of a third-grader whose older children attended state-religious schools, said the Jewish instruction at the Adam School is superior to that in the state-religious schools. "When they learn Jewish subjects here, it stays with them much more so than with a child in a state-religious school because of the experiential approach," he said.

Although they spot weeks and \$70,000 refurbishing their building, Adam School parents and teachers said they are prepared to move next week. A school psychologist, provided by the municipality, worries less about the effect of the haredi attacks on the children and more about the many moves. Even this move is temporary. The school will have to find a new home next year.

"We feel disappointment and sorrow from the contrast between our educational method, which is centered on 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' and the encounter with haredim who purport to represent the true values of Judaism," said Yoav Aprozovitz, director of the Adam Association. "Our children have learned a bitter lesson about religion and it will take a long time to undo the damage."

Perhaps the move into a building alongside haredim who accept their existence will hasten that process.

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On the beat

WHEN Azzam Maraka showed his friends the video footage he took of border policemen beating up Palestinian workers near the A-Ram checkpoint, his friends simply shrugged. They said they had seen it before. Several said they themselves were beaten by border policemen.

The answer to just how widespread Border Police violence towards Palestinians is, depends on whom you ask. The Border Police itself says the A-Ram incident, which occurred in October but was made public just two weeks ago, is an exception.

Whatever the extent, the A-Ram incident has rekindled a heated debate, first raised during the intifada, on the roots of abusive behavior towards Palestinians by Israeli forces - in particular the Border Police - in the territories, and what can be done to halt it. If the debate were simply academic, it could perhaps be dismissed. But it is not. The issues raised in the aftermath of A-Ram go to the heart of the question of Israel's continued role in the territories, and its relation to the Palestinian population there.

Israeli society, as a whole, must take responsibility for the brutality towards Palestinians by border policemen, "because we sent them on their difficult mission [in the territories]", according to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani. "When they joined the Border Police, they did not display this aggression. Rather, the missions they face day in and day out does something to them," Kahalani said in an interview just after the A-Ram incident.

Kahalani puts the incident in a political perspective. His view is that Border Police brutality is a natural result of service in the territories. His solution: "Separation."

But the minister is a realist. He openly admits that he is in a minor-

Depending on whom you ask, the reason for, and amount of, Border Police violence against Palestinians varies. **Bill Hutman** reports on the conflicting views of the source of this on-going tension

ity in the government, and that implementing any sort of separation plan, such as the one envisioned by the previous Labor government, is not likely in the near future. That leaves the Border Police in a bind. The force must continue with its daily confrontation with the Palestinian population, which lead to such incidents as that which occurred in A-Ram.

Kahalani, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, and Border Police Chief Yisrael Sadan all have publicly denounced the two border policemen's abuse of Palestinian workers in A-Ram, and have vowed to prevent further abuse. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also sharply condemned the incident, warning that it did much damage to Israel's image. Border policemen must be kept in line, Netanyahu said.

But the pronouncements of politicians and commanders don't always translate easily to the reality on the ground.

EIGHT YEARS ago, psychologists Charles Greenbaum and Dan Bar-On, at the time IDF reservists, carried out a study, for the IDF, on the effects of the intifada on soldiers and border policemen. The study, conducted during the first few months of the intifada, had startling results.

The study revealed that soldiers and border policemen serving in the territories were under dangerous strain, which was having immediate detrimental effects, and unknown, but clearly also worrisome, long-term effects.

The IDF officers who had requested the study, however, ignored the results, according to Greenbaum, who today is a professor at the Hebrew University. Greenbaum then went to the media with his findings, causing a nationwide stir, and playing a major part in turning the public's attention to the ill effects of army service in the territories. A manifestation of these ill effects was violence towards the Palestinian population.

Today, according to Greenbaum, little has changed. "My impression is that the army did virtually nothing all of these years to deal with the problem. This was seen in the Border Police incident at A-Ram... that abuse of Palestinians has become a norm."

Deputy Commander Alain Weinstein, head of the Psychology and Organization Counseling Office of the Border Police, sees things differently. Weinstein, also a psychologist, adamantly rejects the conclusion that violence in the force is widespread. The research of Greenbaum and Bar-On is interesting and important, but it doesn't

speaking of the reality in which the Border Police operates, according to Weinstein. "[They] are saying that we must try to minimize the friction between the Palestinian population and Border Police... when there is a clash, to keep out of the village, to reduce the contact with the population," said Weinstein.

The recommendation of Greenbaum and Bar-On, however, doesn't work for the Border Police, according to Weinstein. "For us, in the Border Police, the friction is inherent in the task we have been given," he said. The fact border policemen have been given the mission of manning checkpoints, patrolling in Palestinian villages, searching for illegal Palestinian workers, and carrying out other jobs that require direct contact with Palestinians, makes disengagement from the Palestinian population unworkable - at least until a political solution is found to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In the meantime, it is the responsibility of Weinstein, and the small team of psychologists in his Border Police department, to stamp out the abusive behavior in the force. "The media have greatly exaggerated the A-Ram incident. What happened there is an exception, I can assure you of that. I can also assure you that I and other senior officers in the Border Police look very seriously upon the incident," Weinstein said.

THERE ARE three major roots of abusive behavior in an individual, according to the classic research on the subject - individual tendencies towards violence, the climate within the unit (e.g. police station or squad), and the environment or situation, Weinstein said. The behavior displayed by the two border policemen in A-Ram reflects a combination of the effects of individual tendencies and situation, according to Weinstein. "They have a difficult



Border Police break up a demonstration in Jerusalem near Damascus Gate. (Photo: Reuters)

job. Imagine yourself manning a checkpoint all day, and you turn back a Palestinian who doesn't have the proper ID, and 15 minutes later you see him on the other side of the checkpoint. There is a great feeling of frustration," Weinstein said.

He said the policemen involved had been fired on by Palestinian policemen, and attacked by rocks and bottles by Palestinian rioters, during the unrest that swept the territories after the opening of the Hashmonean Tunnel in September - just two weeks before the A-Ram incident.

Weinstein's departments major job is to pick out the young men and women with violent tendencies before they are allowed to join the Border Police.

He said that there has been great success in this area. Once enlisted, border policemen are given a battery of courses and training exercises

meant to ease the ill-effects of the situation or environment which they will be likely serving.

They receive a course which defines the legal and illegal uses of force. They also take a course in the ethics of police work.

A recent addition to their training is a course in "behavioral skills," teaching, for instance, the proper use of body language. The message given to the policemen is that there are better ways than using physical force to demonstrate your authority.

"Deterrence does not have to be based on violence," is a major point that the new border policemen are meant to understand from their training, Weinstein said.

"Take, for example, a highway patrolman in the United States - when they pull you over, they take their time walking up to your car. They show that they are in control, by being assertive, but not aggres-

sive. And they have the public's respect."

Route 95 through Georgia, where the American public's respect for highway patrolmen slows many drivers down to the speed limit, is no Jerusalem-Ramallah Road, where border policemen stationed at several roadblocks exchange tense glances with Palestinian drivers. "The situation is explosive," said Professor Moshe Lissak, an expert on the IDF at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Sociology Department. "There is a constant feeling of tension, each side feeling threatened by the other."

Lissak had a strong word of caution for the psychologists, as well as for the politicians and commanders, on the abusive behavior of border policemen in the territories: "It is hard for me to believe that, even with all the good intentions, it can be controlled."

Uzi Landau tackles the defense establishment

LESS than six months into the job, Uzi Landau freely says what his predecessors in the post of chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee hesitated to admit: the Knesset has little supervision or control over the country's military establishment.

In a time of military and political tension, Landau says, this is far from the ideal.

"The parliamentary supervision has to be tighter and more efficient," asserts Landau, a veteran Likud member. "It isn't. The main reason is that the committee does not have the expertise gathered with the experience it gathers from its members. When the elections are over, you start again with new members. If you have MKs who know what they're doing, you're lucky. But in most cases, they are doing political work and you can't get them to the subcommittees."

The problem, he says, has been exacerbated in the last four years with the introduction of primaries. Simply put, "today's MK doesn't

The defense committee chairman warns that the Knesset is lacking in sufficient supervision of the military, and of other problems. **Steve Rodan** reports

have time to immerse himself in the kind of defense issues his job demands. The way most parliamentarians see it, they have to be on the streets and get out of the committee rooms if they want to be reelected.

In the US, Landau says, congressional committees are bolstered by numerous staffers, who are experts in the issues covered by the panels. But in Israel, members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee are flooded by information but have few people to help them.

"There aren't enough professional staff in the committees, in such areas as intelligence, military acqui-

sitions and military preparedness," he says. "The capability of the Knesset committee to supervise is very inadequate. At the same time, there is an increase in the committees."

The easiest answer is more staff, particularly in the area of budget, one of the most complicated tasks on the committee. Since 1991, Landau has pushed for more staffers not only in parliament but in the Prime Minister's Office, as part of a US-style national security council.

Still, in the six years Landau has been on the defense budget subcommittee, he has seen one part-time staffer.

"Which expert is going to do this kind of work part-time?" Landau asks. "We have to convince the Knesset to give us more resources."

As it stands, the subcommittee is in greater need of help than ever. The Finance Ministry and the IDF dispute the wages of career soldiers and officers. A committee headed by reserve major-general Rafael Vardi is preparing authoritative data on the subject.

Then, the question for the parliamentarians will be how much of its defense budget the IDF should be



Landau: When there are threats, everybody wakes up. (Oscar Hansen)

spending on salaries. In real terms, the military budget has decreased about one-third in the last decade. Most of the money saved went to improve social services, including education and health.

At the same time, Landau says, salaries and pensions have been the only part of the military budget that have constantly risen while items such as supplies and research and development have decreased.

"The defense budget has changed a lot in the last 10 years in real terms," Landau says. "Now, salaries are 45 to 50 percent of the defense budget and the rest, such as acquisition, has gone down. Salaries have to be held in check."

The most immediate casualty of

rising salaries, Landau says, has been the level of ammunition and supplies in the IDF. They have dropped to levels termed as dangerous by senior IDF commanders as military assessments forecast a low probability of war.

"If you do it for five to 10 years then you end up with a much weaker army than appears," Landau says. "You don't have the number of battalions you think because you can't equip them."

Over the last few months, military sources say, the Defense Ministry has spent close to NIS 1 billion to resupply the IDF.

"What's happened now is when there are threats from Syria and Egypt, then everybody wakes up," he says. "We have to see how you plan for the long-term. How do you have to do over time. This you have to invest in the IDF in real terms, not only in terms of equipment."

Landau has thought hard about restructuring the military budget. He wants more funds made available by privatizing portions of the government-operated defense industries.

IN ADDITION, Landau agrees with the assessment of senior IDF commanders that the army contains too many recruits, particularly in support roles. His solution is to cut compulsory service to a period of one to two years.

The parliamentarians would then encourage combat troops by paying them salaries. This would correct the imbalance where rear-guard officers make nearly as much as their front-line counterparts.

"We are living in an Israel where social spending has increased at the expense of defense," he says. "This has to be changed. We have to put much more funds in defense. I am not talking only about Iran. I am talking about Egypt, which is buying modern Western weapons and technologies. It is vital that Israel invest a lot more in defense industries to produce new systems that the Arabs don't have. There has been an improvement in the last two years but not enough. Until two years ago, R&D had been reduced by one-third in the previous 15 years."

Landau returns repeatedly to what

he terms the Egyptian threat. Egyptian efforts to rebuild its military with Western technology and doctrine began soon after the 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But after a lull of several years, Cairo is making threats that for the first time highlight its military might.

"The Egyptian interest in the long term is to weaken Israel and bring it to its natural size in terms of territory, military and economy," he says. "The economic aspect was demonstrated at the Cairo conference."

"In the military realm, we see Egyptian pressure on Israel in the field of [their efforts to ban] non-conventional weapons. In terms of territory, we see their support of a Palestinian state. As long as there are close relations between Israel and the US, however, it is not in Egypt's interest to use violent means."

Landau says Israel cannot ignore the Egyptian threat, despite the need to keep tensions in check. "With all the hopes and needs to have a warm peace, we have to be prepared for a worst-case scenario," he says.

The more immediate threat, however, is from Iran. Tehran continues to develop its nuclear weapons program at what is now regarded as a quicker pace - up to two years rather than the 10 to 15 that had been forecast - than officials in Washington or Jerusalem expected. Moreover, the Islamic regime might be getting away with this.

"I am worried over the tendency in the US to get closer to Iran," he says. "I am not against this per se. I am against Iran exploiting this. Iran is building a huge army with non-conventional capabilities. There are reports of a huge deal between China and Iran of \$4.5 billion that would include missiles. China denies this. We are worried. We have to see this as dangerous. Iraq, by the way, is also not far behind in its missile and nuclear programs."

Landau questions what sort of IDF will face these enemies. He has been critical toward what he terms the politicization of some senior officers who have spent more time in the negotiating room than in the field. He says the change has affected their perceptions of the nation's defense needs.

"The criticism I had was toward the officers who were in the negotiations," he says, referring to his controversial statements in August. "Because they were negotiators, they were serving the government's interest and not that of the nation's defense."

Landau cites an oft-mentioned example. He recalls a briefing given by the government coordinator of the territories, Maj-Gen. Oren Shohor, who, just weeks before the Israeli-Palestinian gun battles, assured the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Palestinian police would not turn their guns against Israel.

That perception was encouraged throughout the defense establishment, Landau says, particularly by then-Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Ehud Barak, who welcomed the IDF's participation in the negotiations. In the General Security Services, senior agents were told that the Palestinians were now the allies and

commanders such as Col. Rafi Rajoub would confront Islamic terrorism.

To Landau, this was a clear conflict of interest.

"There are people who subconsciously began to make compromises with security so that the negotiations and they themselves would succeed," he says. "The government did great damage when it dragged the IDF into the negotiations. For them, it was good politics. The IDF is popular. If the negotiations work then the government takes the credit. If they don't work, they can always blame the army."

LANDAU SAYS the current Likud-led government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is continuing the example of the previous government. Pressed by the Palestinians and the US, Netanyahu has called in such officers as Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Shahak and IDF head of planning Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, to conduct negotiations with the PA.

"The political level that dragged the military into this was irresponsible," he says. "Unfortunately, the same thing goes on today. I expect that the chief of staff will express his opposition to being involved in the negotiations."

Landau doesn't feel the IDF's involvement has made a significant difference to the current talks on Hebron. The government forms the negotiating positions, he says, and so far he has not been happy with its approach.

"His main complaint is what he says is Netanyahu's failure to demand Palestinian compliance with the Oslo accords. First, Landau, who supports the entry of the Labor Party into the current government, says, the PA should honor existing agreements. Then, the next stages of Oslo could be tackled."

"I understand the prime minister when he says he will abide by the accord," he says. "I find it hard to understand why he is honoring the accord without asking Arafat to honor his part. There are many examples: the failure to suspend the PLO covenant; ending terrorism; extradition of Palestinian terrorists."

"If you cannot demand of them to honor the agreement, then everything is focused on our abiding by the accords. If we don't do this, we give them legitimacy. Who will then take us seriously?"

"It is clear that Hebron is lost. The dispute is over Jerusalem. We can't give up the security to somebody else."

Landau's concern is that once the Hebron accord is completed, Yasser Arafat will ease his grip on Hamas and Islamic Jihad. He points to the secret accord between the Islamic groups as the reason for the current lull in terrorist attacks.

"Hamas is against Israel but not against getting territory," he says. "It is clear that if Hebron comes into their hands the chances of their reverting to terrorism will increase. If Arafat doesn't get what he wants he could use terror. After Hebron, Arafat will want more. Maybe then he could use terror."

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Fateful years need national unity

Dry Bones

NATIONAL unity governments are almost always bad ideas. They choke off debate, leave the parliamentary system without a responsible opposition, and produce a government of such broad compromises that it can't move off the seat of its pants. And why should it when there's no one to give it a good kick?

Nevertheless, if a national unity government was ever needed in Israel, it's needed now.

Not to save Shimon Peres from retirement, of course, although to judge by his ousting of Ehud Barak at last week's Labor Party convention (and of the press, too, which unanimously thought that Barak had bested him), Peres is still the shrewdest and most capable politician this country has.

Rather, it's precisely because we need such a government, the deal Peres made with Barak - retirement as Labor's head in under a year from now if he doesn't manage to lead the party into a coalition with the Likud before that - was a wily one. Barak clearly doesn't think that Peres stands a chance. Every wrinkle of political experience that Peres has and Barak doesn't should tell us that Peres knows better.

Nor do we necessarily need a national unity government to save us from Benjamin Netanyahu, even if a growing number of his fellow Likudniks are beginning to act like nervous passengers on a plane that should have a copilot. Netanyahu hasn't done much that's right yet, but neither has he made any irreversible blunders. In ordinary circumstances we could afford to wait for his performance to improve.

But these aren't ordinary circumstances. They are among the most fateful years that the Jewish people has lived through.

The remainder of Netanyahu's term in office, in which final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will take place, may determine not only whether - in the coming decade or two, at any rate - we will have peace or war with the Arab world. They may determine the permanent borders of the Jewish state; the relation of these borders to the historical land of Israel; the populations living within and outside of them; the proportion of Jews and Arabs in each group; and a wide range of political, social and cultural consequences resulting from these things.

In short, they will determine who

AGAINST THE GRAIN
HILLEL HALKIN

we are as Jews and Israelis; how we live as Jews and Israelis; and perhaps even whether we live as Jews and Israelis for a very long time to come.

These are not things, if it can be avoided, to be decided by one half of a nation against the will of the other half, regardless of which half does the deciding.

It is true that democratic countries do not normally chart their courses by consensus politics. They tend to proceed by zig-zags and zags, the way a boat tacks against the wind, now running on one reach and now on its opposite in order to keep moving ahead. This is the beauty of the two-party system, in which - though in the heat of political passions the fact tends to be forgotten - both parties are collaborative partners of a single, self-correcting mechanism.

And this is for the most part how, since the Six Day War, it has worked in Israel too. A cynic once remarked to me that the Labor Party built up Sinai so that the Likud could sell it to the Egyptians, and that the Likud then built up the

West Bank so that the Labor Party could sell it to the Palestinians - and there was considerable truth to the observation.

In regard to the West Bank, however, one could also look at it differently; one could say that, from the vantage point of national destiny, it has been the Likud's task to make a Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria strong enough to be ineradicable, and Labor's task to keep this presence from hurting us into ruling the Palestinian inhabitants of these territories forever, and that both parties have succeeded in the job assigned them by history. The Shamir years were a zig, the Rabin-Peres years were a zag, and their joint vector may be optimal.

But as it happens in sailing when you are heading for shore and close to it, we have run out of room for tacking; the time has come to steer for a point and hope it won't run us aground. The decisions that now have to be made may not allow for major correctives once we make them. That is why it is so important for them to be made by the nation as a whole, if only to keep half of us from blaming the other half if we crack up.

Can one imagine an approach

toward final-status negotiations that Labor and Likud could agree on? Shimon Peres quite obviously thinks we can.

In my case, as a number of Israeli politicians have pointed out, there is simply no possibility that a right-wing government acting by itself can achieve peace with the Palestinians. This is not only because such a government, responding solely to pressures from its own constituency rather than to those also coming from the left, will be unable to offer the Palestinians anything they can accept. It is also because, whatever the Palestinians are offered by it, they will assume they can get more from Labor and will turn the offer down, even if the ensuing deadlock leads to confrontation and violence.

The same holds true for the continuation of the peace process with Syria and with the rest of the Arab world. As long as the Arabs think they can get another zag out of us, they will try. Only when they know that we are on our final approach course is there any chance of exacting from them the concessions that are necessary for peace.

Peres understands this. And he is assuming that, sooner or later, so will Netanyahu.



Intellectual bunk as 'history'

The historian must not try to know what is truth, if he values his honesty; for, if he cares for his truths, he is certain to falsify his facts.

The Education of Henry Adams

THE COLLEGE of William and Mary (hereafter W/M), a state-supported college of liberal arts and sciences in Williamsburg, Virginia, is one of America's most venerable institutions of higher learning. Founded in 1693 by England's King William III and Queen Mary II, it is the oldest college in the US after Harvard. Among its alumni are presidents George Washington, who was also its chancellor from 1788 till his death in 1799, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler; and John Marshall, secretary of state and then chief justice of the US.

It was at W/M that the Phi Beta Kappa society was founded in 1776, and the honor system was first instituted in 1779. It was the first college in the US to have an elective system of study (1779), a school of modern languages (1779), and a school of modern history (1803).

It confers bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees.

But W/M seems to have no qualms about its name being associated with a farrago of distortions, to put it mildly, in the guise of a textbook on *Politics in the Middle East* by James Bill, professor of history at W/M, and Prof. Robert Springborg of Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (hereafter B/S).

Edward Lato of Givat Savyon, a W/M alumnus, has sent me a photocopy of chapter seven, "The Arab-Israeli Connection," in the book's fourth edition, published in 1993 by Scott, Foresman/Little, Brown.

B/S rely almost exclusively on radical, post-Zionist, anti-Zionist, anti-Israel Jewish, Arab and other sources. To mention some of the more notorious bastards of Israel and Zionism they cite: Arabs including Rastid Khalidi, Daoud Kuttab, Edward Said, Raja Shehadeh; Israeli Jews including Simha Flapan, Peretz Kidron, Benny Morris, Tom Segev, Avi Shlaim, French Jew Maxime Rodinson; Jewish and other Americans such as Janet Abu-Lughod, Lenni Brenner, Andrew and Leslie Cockburn; Norman Finkelstein; Leon Hadari; and Irishman Erskine Childers.

Occasionally, I suppose to give respectability to their biases, B/S cite, sometimes out of context, more objective Zionist sources like David Ben-Gurion, Meron Benvenisti, Yehoshafat Harkabi, Theodor Herzl, Aaron Klieman and Chaim Weizmann.

It would take a long monograph to do justice to the out-

A VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

rage B/S perpetrate against the truth and therefore against Israel, the Jews, or Arab interlocutors, those relying on their book, and therefore against the cause of peace in the Middle East. I will mention a few of their more blatant distortions and misdeeds.

B/S tell us that one of the "justifications" Jews - or rather Zionists; they apparently are aware of the value of not blaming all Jews for the "sins" of the Zionists - cite for our claim to Eretz Yisrael is our "perceptions of abiding antisemitism."

Antisemitism is a historical fact, not merely a perception. But as Thomas Sowell observes, "perceptions" is one of a number of words that "express... a disdain [by those who ironically dub "the Anointed"] for the first-hand experiences of millions of others..." (*The Vision of the Anointed*, N.Y., Basic Books, 1995).

Another "justification" they pin on us is Israel's "relatively democratic nature." Compared to which absolutely democratic state is Israel only "relatively democratic"? Which of the world's two dozen or so democracies is more than "relatively democratic" - relative, I guess, to that mythical pristine natural state in which humanity, unpolluted by civilization, was supposedly innocent and all of us, doing as we pleased, did what the Anointed consider the right thing.

B/S SAY "The aggression of Israel by the armies of five Arab states in 1948 was 'interventions... into the civil war that had been raging since December 1947 between Jews and Palestinians.'" And, quoting Simha Flapan, it "was not aimed at destroying the Jewish state [but] was intended to prevent [Transjordan's King] Abdullah from annexing the Arab part of Palestine..."

This statement is belied by the well-documented blood-thirsty anti-Jewish declarations of most Arab, including "Palestinian," spokesmen of that time.

B/S, basing themselves on Israeli revisionist historians, say Jewish acceptance of the UN's 1947 partition recommendation was not in order to restore Jewish national sovereignty and provide a home for homeless Jews in our ancestral homeland, but "only a tactical move designed to pave the way for a military confrontation with the Palestinians."

B/S also cite the ridiculous racist assertion of Jewish

and non-Jewish Zionists-haters that "The equation of ancient Hebrew with modern Jews is... questionable."

They don't cite Arthur Koestler's "finding" that today's Jews, mainly the Ashkenazim who invented political Zionism, are really mongrel Jews, descendants of the Khazars who became Jews in the eighth century. But they do cite Prof. Maxime Rodinson's guess that "it is very probable that the so-called Arab inhabitants of Palestine... have much more of the ancient Hebrews' blood" than most of the Jews of the Diaspora, whose religious exclusiveness in no way prevented them from absorbing converts of various religions."

And of various nationalities and races, one might add. So the Arabs are more "racially" Jewish - oops, sorry: Hebrew - than we Jews are. And of course, we nefariously pretend to be exclusive while we seduce innocent Gentiles into converting to our religion.

Perhaps B/S are troubled by the fact that traditional conversion to the Jewish religion carries with it naturalization into the Jewish people, hence creating more potential Zionists.

CONTRARY TO B/S and many other Zionists-haters and Israel-bashers, Golda Meir was not the first to declare (in 1969) that there was no such thing as a Palestinian people. She was preceded from 1919 on by a number of authoritative Arab spokesmen. For example: In 1937 Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, a "Palestinian" leader, told the Peel Commission: "There is no such country [as Palestine]. 'Palestine' is a term the Zionists invented. There is no 'Palestine' in the Bible... 'Palestine' is alien to us..."

In 1919 the "General Palestine Congress" in Damascus resolved by a majority vote not to call the country "Palestine" anymore, "but to call the whole of Syria 'Damascus Province'" (*The Palestine Weekly*, March 19, 1920).

In 1946 the distinguished Arab-American historian, Princeton University Prof. Philip K. Hitti, told the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry: "There is no such thing as Palestine in history, absolutely not."

In 1956, Ahmed Shukairy, then Saudi delegate to the United Nations and later founding chief of the PLO murder gang, told the Security Council: "It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but Southern Syria."

THE EXAMPLES I have cited are but the tip of the dumghill that B/S pass off as history.

Biblical bad boys: Simeon and Levi

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And they said one to another: 'Behold the dreamer comes. Come now therefore let us slay him [Joseph], and cast him into some pit'..." (Gen. 37:19-20)

VIOLENCE is a major theme in this week's portion of *Vayeshev*, as well as in last week's portion of *Vayishlach*. In each case, the brothers Simeon and Levi are the main culprits. Is the Torah suggesting a connection between the two acts?

Dinah is the lone girl in a family of all boys, and her capture and rape by Shechem obviously shakes up the entire household. When the father of Shechem comes to Jacob seeking the hand of Dinah in marriage for his love-stricken son, it sounds, to our ears, as if he is a man acting honorably. After all, the family of Jacob are nomads; he seems to be offering the privilege of joining forces with the local population. Dinah will marry Shechem; business deals between the families will be generated; the borders will be open; land and property will be shared. The marriage will usher in a "New Middle East."

But what may be considered a great offer on the surface is in reality a "hold-up" by a pair of terrorists. After all, Dinah is still being held captive during these negotiations! Hence the brothers' only motivation is to get her free. They therefore seemingly agree, but pose one condition: Shechem and all his people must agree to be circumcised before any marriage can take place. Their plan was simple. If the stipulation were rejected, "we shall then take [free] our daughter [who is obviously still imprisoned] and go..." (Gen. 34:7). And even if they go along with the circumcision, it is the family's decision to wait until the third day after the operation, when the Shechemites will be too weak to resist, and then rescue Dinah.

Apparently Shechem's desire for Dinah was so strong that he would undergo anything, even a circumcision. On the third day, when the weakened state of the Hivites couldn't have prevented Dinah from being freed, Simeon and Levi cannot accept the plan devised by the family. As far as they are concerned, a price must be paid for the disgrace done to their sister. And so they don't merely rescue Dinah; they murder all the males in Shechem.

Distressed, Jacob addresses Simeon and Levi. "You have troubled me, to make my name odious unto the inhabitants of the land..." (Gen. 34:30). The response of the two is blunt and sharp: "Shall we allow him [Shechem] to make of our sister a harlot?" Nahmanides (*od loc.*) condemns the actions of Simeon and Levi, insisting that they had no right to take the lives of the innocent population.

Maimonides, however, defends them on legal grounds: First of all, the rape and kidnapping of Dinah was punishable by death in accordance with the seven Noahide laws of morality; second, another of these laws provides for establishing courts of law for administering justice. The fact that the

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NIS 500 Margit Neufeld, Haifa.
NIS 300 Jan and Josie Genosses, Haifa.
NIS 200 Anon. Tzvi and Miriam Tal, Sede Nechemia. In loving memory of my dear friend, Margot Brick - Mia Krosner, Tel Aviv. J.R.S., Pina. In memory of my parents, Eva and Julius - Ilana and Alfred Mankin, Tel Aviv.
NIS 180 Zvi Burg, Bat Yam.
NIS 175 For Dinah: Wishing you everything you wish for yourself & more - The K's of J'm.
NIS 150 R.S.I. Asher.
NIS 128 In very loving memory of Moshe Zawadzki and his daughter Estelle Birenbaum on their yahrzeit.
NIS 100 Anon., J'm. In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Frieda and David Macrov - Claire. In memory of my departed family members - A.L. My Menasseh, Haifa. In memory of all my Menasseh, Haifa. Herzlina, N.N., loved ones - Rose Shaw, Herzliya. N.N., Kiryat Tivon. In memory - A.V. - Kiryat Tivon. Kfar Shmaryahu. In honor of Rafael Eliezer Rubin, on his bar mitzva - Stanley and Vivian Waterman, Haifa. In honor of Zvi Anon - E. Haifa. In honor of the 80th birthday of Jack Calmus of London. 80th birthday of Jack Calmus of London at Hanukka - ad 120 - His family in Ra'anana.
NIS 60 In loving memory of Max Kloos - J.K.
NIS 54 In memory of Jane, beloved sister of Liz Morley - the Nadders, Petah Tikva.
NIS 50 In honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Ellis and Judith Wynick - Norman and Rosalie Boss, Rehovot. Esther Goldman, Kibbutz Lavi. Esther and Paul Snark, Mizpeh Nevo. In memo-

ry of our dear husband and father, Hans Gorman - Genia, Mickey and Danny. In memory of my sister, Esther Lys, who died on November 6, 1996. May she rest in peace - Joe Dubin, Migdal Ha'emek.
NIS 40 Judith and Ellis Wynick. Rehovot. In honor of my friends, Judith and Ellis Wynick - Sheila Lyons, J'm.
In honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Judith and Ellis Wynick of Rehovot - Stanley and Joan Davis, J'm.
NIS 32 Every year, for U.L. - E.E. \$250 Vivian and Herbert Thaler, Baltimore.
\$200 In memory of my wife, Bernarda - Nemessio Aldoy, Cleveland.
\$162 Mazel tov and much health and happiness to Sydney and Sarah Obolowitz of Cape Town on celebrating their 81st birthdays, with much love from their sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren - Leonard in Portugal, Danny, Michelle, Tamara, Lara, Cassie-Leigh in Perth, Eddie, Jennith and Ronen in S.A., Taly in U.S.A., Shelley and Igal in Israel and friends Margot and Anthony in Portugal.
NIS 144 For Shai, Yoshi, David and Maya - their grandfather, Ramat Gan.
NIS 120 In memory of Moses Alzaband (27) - his family, Shimon Family, Rehovot.
NIS 100 Mazel tov to Ellis and Judith Wynick, Rehovot, on their 40th wedding anniversary - from friends, Family Agassi, Givat Ze'ev. In honor of our grandchildren - Jack and Shirley Bluman, Ashdod, Gerard Kreisberg, Herzliya Pimach, N.N., Kiryat Tivon. Warren and Vael Feigin, J'm. In honor of Leah Aronow - Cousin Julie, Tamar, Yael, Michal and Great Aunt Trudi. In memory - A.V. - S.J.V.-E. Jackie, Kfar Shmaryahu. In honor of Rafael Eliezer Rubin, on his bar mitzva - Stanley and Vivian Waterman, Haifa. Happy Hanukka - Sarah and Morana Kaushani, Ra'anana.
NIS 75 In honor of our grandson Glead's seventh Hanukka - Raymond and Zvi Rosenberg, Ashdod. In honor of our great-granddaughters, Azre and Daniela, that other children may share their good fortune.
NIS 60 In lieu of Hanukka gelt to Menachem and Benjamin - Vera Walden, J'm.
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NIS 180 In honor of the November 3, 1996, birth of our grandson, to Shoshanna and Sotco Kizlerkopor - Ruth and George Solomon, Tel Aviv.
NIS 175 For Dinah: Wishing you everything you wish for yourself and more - the K's, J'm.
NIS 150 To our dear grandchildren: Hagai, Eli, Cheli, Sarit, Shai, Nurit, Avi, Tamir, Liat, Adiel, Ram, Revital, Elad, David, Nemessio, Jennita, Tania, Emma, Raja and great-grandson Ariel - Ruth and Felix Wolfshal, J'm.
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Rehovot. In honor of my friends, Judith and Ellis of Rehovot - Sheila Lyons, J'm.
NIS 36 In memory of my Aunt Berna Levin of Tel Aviv - Charles Rosenson, J'm.
\$250 David Scharf, Westlake Village, CA. Vivian and Herbert Thaler, Baltimore.
\$162 Mazel tov and much health and happiness to Sydney and Sarah Obolowitz of Cape Town, on celebrating their 81st birthdays, with much love from their sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren - Leonard in Portugal, Danny, Michelle, Tamara, Lara, Cassie-Leigh in Perth, Eddie, Jennith and Ronen in S.A., Taly in U.S.A., Shelley and Igal in Israel, friends Margot and Anthony in Portugal.
NIS 118 In honor of our wonderful grandchildren Shani, Jenni, Robyn, Michael, Callie and Rachel - Irvin and Nadine Farber, Philadelphia.
NIS 100 In honor of my grandparents, Mildred and Samuel - Rachel Levine, Secaucus, NJ. Richard and Margalit Ghez, J'm.
\$80 The Sixth Grade of Temple Solel Religious School, Bowie, MD.
\$70 William and Sylvia Gersch, Scotchdale.
\$64 In memory of my mother Pesse, brother Chayim, sister Bella, who perished in the Holocaust - Lez Warner, L.A., CA.
\$54 In honor of our grandchildren: Elon, Kayla Gubov of Deerfield, IL, Yoef, Atara, Avraham, Elisheva, Devorah Pimachik of Bnei Brak - Fela and Bob Pimachik.
\$50 For Hanukka, in honor of grandparents Lillian and Fred Katzberg - Jesse and Oren Gabriel, Agoura, CA. Manella Family, Tappan, NY. Suzan Sankel, Cliffside Park, NJ. In honor of our grandchildren: Ariel, Mandy and Yitzi, Shani, Taly and Shmuel - Honey and Paul Katz, Ma'alot Admunim.
\$36 In honor of Elhanan, studying at Yeshivat Reishit Yeshubaiyim - Erlich Family, Rhinecliff, NY. In honor of Shirley Logater's 75th birthday - Walter and Miriam Pagan, Wilmette, IL. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brill, L.A., CA. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Baker, Houston.
\$25 Bill Yeglin, Des Moines, IA. Sam and Shirley Schneider, Silver Spring (Continued on Page 12)

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\$33 Refuah Shleimah for my darling Daddy, in memory of my darling Mother (27).

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Danger!! Slippery Roads!!

DRIVERS BEWARE!

- Stay down!
- Keep your distance!
- Avoid sudden braking!

Shabbat Shalom

Model diplomat

BEFORE she became a diplomat, Maatchen Land, the wife of the South African ambassador, was a model. After her marriage, she shelved her own diplomatic career, so that she could properly devote herself to being the ambassador's wife, which included learning to make cucumber sandwiches with paper-thin slices of bread. In the 25-year hiatus since her modeling days, Land never lost her flair, and is in fact one of the most stunning dressers on the diplomatic circuit.

But last week, she also proved that she hadn't lost the model's élan. The occasion was the birthday of Ecuadorian ambassador Paulina Garcea de Larrea, who together with other female diplomats and wives of diplomats was entertained by Elinor Gabrieli, a Tel Aviv-based importer of international designer fashions. Entering into the spirit of the occasion, Land spontaneously agreed to model a black Valentino gown, and in so doing may have opened a door to put herself back on the runway.

AS OF this week, the students of Rabbi M. Mitchell Sereis of New York's Yeshiva University had an additional option when addressing him. On Wednesday, Sereis became the first rabbi and only one of a handful of foreigners to receive Spain's Order of Civil Merit, which is equivalent to a knighthood, and gives him the right to be addressed as Don Mitchell Sereis. Up till now, his students referred to him as rabbi or doctor. The order, conferred by King Juan Carlos and presented to Sereis at a ceremony at the official Manhattan residence of Spanish

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY GASHMAN

Consul General Manuel Alendosalazar, was in recognition of "outstanding services and work of a civil nature" in improving relations between Spain and Sephardi Jews. A historian and a leading activist in the international effort to preserve Sephardi culture, Sereis is one of approximately 200,000 Sephardim living in the US.

ONE OF the heroines of another story related to Spain is Dora Lewin of Kiryat Haim, who as a member of the International Brigades who fought fascism, worked as a nurse in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Lewin was one of 370 former brigade members who responded to the invitation of the Organization of the International Brigades in Spain to visit Madrid and Barcelona for the 60th anniversary of the formation of the International Brigades. The veterans and members of their families were warmly received by the local population. Of the 35,000 young men and women from all over the world who had joined the fight against fascism, some 300, according to Lewin, were volunteers from Eretz Yisrael.

IT WAS difficult to find someone who was not a celebrity at the opening at the Rubin Museum of Yossi Bergner's *Between Seas* exhibition of 30 previously unexhibited paintings. The legendary Arie (Luvia) Eilat was but one of the many people of renown who eagerly sought Bergner's auto-

graph on the catalog. Three generations of the Rubin family, headed by the majestic Esther Rubin, were present to greet the throngs who included artists Menashe Kadishman, Genia Berger, Moshe Bernstein and Itche Mambush, entertainers Shlomo Nitzan and Dudi Gal, hotelier Mickey Federman, fashion designer Jerry Melitz, retired Supreme Court judge Moshe Bejski, playwright Nissim Aloni and literally hundreds of others. The visibly overwhelmed Bergner, speaking in Hebrew, Yiddish and English sound bites to the hordes who surrounded him, occasionally resorted to a hip flask for a little Dutch courage. Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo, who opened the show, said that he had always been an admirer of Bergner, "but, on my salary, I can't afford to buy too much of his work."

LABOR MK and former chief of general staff Ehud Barak was not the least bit put out that the Israel, Britain and the Commonwealth Association festive dinner celebrating the 79th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was a month and a day late, but he hadn't counted on having to sit through the whole meal before delivering his address. Barak, who had another engagement that night, and who made no effort to hide his impatience, had to sit through the toasts, the four-course meal prepared by Tel Aviv Sheraton chefs, the introductions and reminiscences of IBCA chairman Lewis Harris and the erudite address of Britain's former chief of defense staff Field Marshal Lord Bramall of



Maatchen Land, wife of the South African ambassador, models a Valentino gown for women in the diplomatic circuit who were guests of importer Elinor Gabrieli.

Bushfield before it was his turn. Barak had earlier told the organizers that he didn't mind talking while the other guests were eating - but that kind of thing simply isn't British, so he had to wait his turn. When it did come, he suggested to Lewis that the reading of his CV could be saved for another occasion, but he ducked out on that one too.

FREUD MIGHT have been excited to have Bruce Willis as a patient. The popular, 41-year-old actor likes to use the Barbie dolls discarded by his three daughters for target practice. Perhaps this is his way to take out his frustrations against his wife Demi Moore, whose lesbian tendencies have of late become great media fodder. For a man who's generally perceived as a talented sex symbol, that's a very bitter blow to the ego.

AFTER ALL the ballyhoo surrounding the break-up of their marriage, Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee have decided to kiss and make up - at least until the next crisis comes around.

BASKETBALL CHAMPION Michael Jordan, who has been the human factor in animated commercials for Nike, has moved into the world of feature films and stars in the animated and live-action Warner Brothers feature *Space Jam*, from which he will reportedly collect 10 percent of the take. Jordan, who does not plan to become an actor or move to L.A., may change his mind if the movie turns out to be a box-office hit. Meanwhile, he's still on the ball.

A sickening distortion

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

TEL AVIV Mayor Ronni Milo made a name for himself this week with a feisty stand against the haredi onslaught on his city's way of life. Riding on his phrase "Jerusalem may be the holy city, but Tel Aviv is the city of freedom" Milo dared the haredim, who held a mass demonstration in protest against Sabbath "violations" in Tel Aviv, to carry out their threat to shut the city down on weekends.

"The intoxication of power the haredim have taken from the recent elections is tempting them to cross red lines which could undermine the pillars of Israeli society," said Milo as the haredim converged on the city.

Milo said that haredi attempts to undermine the city's happy status quo began immediately after the elections. "We'll stand like a wall in the face of their attempts to change the city," he thundered. "Tel Aviv is a city of tolerance, of understanding, of coexistence between Jews and Arabs, left and right, religious and secular."

"Any attempt to impose the customs of Jerusalem on Tel Aviv stirs the public to rise up against haredi coercion and will arouse widespread hostility towards them."

Agudat Yisrael leaders, who organized the rally as part of their campaign against the Supreme Court and the rule of civil law in Israel, this week announced an astounding historical discovery: the real culprits of the Holocaust were ... Reform Jews!

"Of the Jews in Germany 95 percent were Reform and assimilators. And there of all places rose Hitler and killed six million Jews. Clearly the Reform Jews were responsible for the Holocaust. It's a fact - there were no religious Jews there," said Pinhas Horowitz, deputy chairman of Agudat Yisrael's central committee. "If we don't preserve the Sabbath, this state will cease to exist and a Hitler will rise here."

IN THE LIONESS'S DEN

MK Haim Dayan, the subject of a police complaint by his wife - later withdrawn - which accused him of being a violent spouse, this week chaired a Knesset debate on another man suspected of battering a woman.

The debate was called following the closure of an investigation into the case of Professor Moshe Lazar, director of Ichilov Hospital's Ophthalmology Department. Lazar was accused of beating a visiting doctor from Bulgaria with whom he became involved.

The charge sheet against Lazar was shelved on the orders of a senior police officer after Lazar approached the head of Tel Aviv's Police investigation department.

In a rare show of cross-party solidarity, four female Knesset members walked out. MKs Dalia Itzik of Labor, Naomi Chazan and Anat Maor of Meretz, and Naomi Binmuntal of Likud were outraged by Dayan's refusal to stand down from his post of deputy Knesset speaker until the police inquiry into his own case was completed.

Dayan was astonished that there should be any question at all against his continuing to run Knesset debates as deputy speaker while police continue to investigate an incident that possibly could lead to charges.

"Why, what happened?" he asked. "Of course I'll conduct plenum debates. Why shouldn't I? Do you think my domestic affairs are a political issue?"

Dayan had taken a few days' vacation to "rehabilitate his family life" last week but returned to work on the same day the Knesset marked the international day set aside to highlight domestic violence.

Somewhat bemused by his air of confident deniability, some MKs were heard to note with a smirk that Dayan's couple of days off had coincided with extensive television coverage of O.J. Simpson's astounding statements of denial at his civil trial ("I never touched Nicole. - In fact I was the battered one - she lied.")

While Dayan is still legally innocent of any offense, some MKs wondered if, given the stories, publicity and his own embarrassing



Ronni Milo: The haredim are intoxicated with power. (Moshe Guttman)

appearance with his wife on television, Dayan as deputy speaker has quite the image of an example the Knesset wants to set before the public.

IN THE DOGHOUSE

A fierce rotweiler padding along Netivei Ayalon almost caused a new political storm this week.

Shelly Yehimovitz, host of Israel Radio's morning talk show *Hakol Diburim* ("It's all talk") raised the wrath of the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday when she suggested calling the dog "Bibi."

It all began when MK Avraham Poraz, of Meretz, noticed the dog wandering through the traffic on Netivei Ayalon with all the air of a lost soul. Poraz stopped his car to take the dog off the road and out of danger, whereupon the beast jumped into the vehicle and stayed there.

"So what do you call him in the meantime?" Yehimovitz asked Poraz, who was looking after the dog while looking for its owner.

"I called him Quasimodo," quoth the canine-loving MK.

"Why Quasimodo?" asked Yehimovitz. "Is he a hunchback or something?"

"We have a tendency to dwarf animals by not giving them people's names," said Poraz. "But imagine I called him Binyamin - it wouldn't be nice."

"Nu?" said Yehimovitz. "And why not? You could call him Bibi for short."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak called Israel Radio Director Amnon Nadav to complain of angry reactions to the piece. Likudniks were not amused, to say the least.

Yehimovitz apologized. "I'm sorry if I hurt anybody's feelings when I spoke with Poraz about the dog and mentioned Bibi," she said. "I'm very fond of dogs."

Yehimovitz then told listeners she was off for two days' leave and signed off with a cheery "see you Wednesday."

The haredi *Yated Ne'eman* promptly reported she had been suspended for insulting the prime minister. *Yedioth Aharanot* repeated the incorrect report but with Nadav's denial that Yehimovitz had been suspended.

Yehimovitz later said she had made "an idiotic mistake that was childish and unnecessary."

On Wednesday's show Yehimovitz repeated her apology explaining that "the comment was made in jest with no intention of insulting the prime minister or any of our listeners."

She added: "When I said I was fond of dogs, I meant it. A pair of my friends called their cat Shelly after me. But now I realize certain people were offended, and it was very insensitive of me. My comments about the dog were idiotic and rude. We deal with all kinds of issues on the program but this kind of nonsense is the last thing I want to get into a fight about."

Poraz admitted an oblique allusion to the prime minister when he chose "Binyamin" as a "for example" but he had done so cautiously.

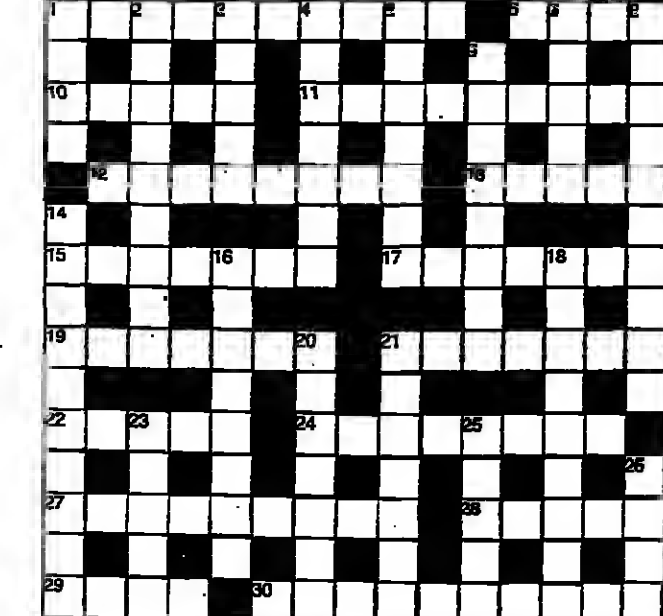
"Shelly was merely joking. It is permitted to joke even about the prime minister. You need a bit of humor. So what if I called my dog Bibi? Would I be accused of shaking the pillars of government?"

SEULINE

by DOSH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Remarkable men help oo a redevelopment (10)
 - 6 He's put soldiers back in charge (4)
 - 10 Cattle fodder from Northern Europe (5)
 - 11 Making some progress, though plainly ageing (7,2)
 - 12 Going in left and right ooe scoffed to wound (8)
 - 13 Key in important Venetian scheme (5)
 - 16 Ordered to carry equipment for a military body (7)
 - 17 Advances a member of the family (7)
 - 19 A suit in material right for a hot country (7)
 - 21 Getting money back on a horse (7)
 - 22 Warning a trainee to prepare for action (5)
 - 24 Taking up rods to switch non-conformists (4-4)
 - 27 Day-dreaming about Spanish urging patience (9)
 - 28 In a panic held off recess (5)
 - 29 Daughter—one of 23 (4)
 - 30 Indulgences in grub by the head (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Exercises absorbing very large model (4)
 - 2 It's odd a vile note can be uplifting (9)
 - 3 Nose over ten look at this flower (2-3)
 - 4 Create an impression (7)
 - 5 May appear alert, with craft or without craft (7)
 - 7 Some upstaged tragedians felt really angry (5)
 - 8 Reading about medicine turn-over being critical (10)
 - 9 Cheats music men? (8)
 - 14 Bet at cards—tricky if inattentive (10)
 - 16 They'll put on speculators (8)
 - 18 A monodie that's just for show (9)
 - 20 Rather slow before—and at the top! (7)
 - 21 Professional examination giving rise to complaint (7)
 - 23 Tired of everything trendy (3,2)
 - 25 A cat that weighs very little? (5)
 - 26 Reports from every direction (4)



SOLUTIONS

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E F F E C T S P U S I I
N O S A P A T H O L I C
I N T H E I N D U S T R I E S
N A E M T
G O O D N I G H T P C
W O G I E V A N I V E
O V E R T I R E H P L
D O I I S H A N G H A I
E F O P T I E E
R I F F L E W E R Y S E R I F

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Shove, 4 Enough, 9 Nairobi, 10 Cocoa, 11 Lees, 12 Native, 13 Bid, 14 Puma, 16 Null, 18 See, 20 Canada, 21 Ast, 24 Avail, 25 Boguish, 26 Erased, 27 Dross.
DOWN: 1 Single, 3 Orvis, 3 Erce, 5 Neotoma, 6 Uncivil, 7 Hoarse, 5 Flead, 13 Bastille, 15 Ululate, 17 Octave, 18 Scare, 19 Riches, 22 Sigo, 23 Aged.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rule (5)
 - 4 Shelters for animals (5)
 - 10 Feeler (7)
 - 11 Intense (5)
 - 12 Wild dog (5)
 - 13 Outdoors (4-3)
 - 15 Solitary (4)
 - 17 Pure (5)
 - 19 Afterwards (5)
 - 22 Remaining (4)
 - 25 Asses (7)
 - 27 Commerce (5)
 - 29 Stimulate (5)
 - 30 Inflexible (7)
 - 31 Wear away (5)
 - 32 Guide (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Consumed (5)
 - 3 Venetian boat (7)
 - 5 Egg-shaped (5)
 - 6 Teach (7)
 - 7 Showy (5)
 - 8 Stoneworker (5)
 - 9 Tired (5)
 - 14 Wealth (4)
 - 16 Sole (4)
 - 18 Lethargy (7)
 - 20 Draw (7)
 - 21 Love (5)
 - 23 Attempt (5)
 - 24 Profundity (5)
 - 26 Revise (5)
 - 28 Lesson (5)

CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at the Ra'anana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School. If you create top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-623-3986.

All proceeds from the fair will help Israel's needy children, the elderly and new immigrants.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, December 6, 1996

13

Thailand, Israel mulling free trade

DAVID HARRIS

ISRAEL and Thailand are to investigate the possibility of reaching a free-trade agreement, which would be the first between Israel and an Asian nation.

The idea was mooted during a meeting held on Wednesday between Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yehoshua Gleitman and the Thai Trade Ministry's director-general.

This would allow for an expansion of commercial ties and allow for increased industrial exports from Israel, Gleitman said. Exports totalled \$256 million last year, with imports of \$161m. In the first three quarters this year, trade volume reached \$372m.

The two also agreed to establish a joint economic committee to discuss improved trade links between the countries.

The government officials will begin making arrangements for business delegations to pay mutual visits to Jerusalem and Bangkok.

In June, Thailand's Labor and Social Affairs Minister Prasong Boonpong said he intended to move his ministry's Middle East labor attaché to Tel Aviv from Athens.

Meanwhile, two senior Foreign Ministry officials have just returned from talks on improving trade relations with South Korea. Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs, Oded Eran, and deputy director-general for Asian and Pacific affairs, Yitzhak Shelef, met Korea's deputy foreign and finance ministers as part of the ongoing consultative discussions between the countries.

(Continued on Page 18)

Sharp cancels plans for Kiryat Shmona factory

DAVID HARRIS

JAPAN'S Sharp Corporation has decided to cancel its plans for a multi-million dollar investment in Kiryat Shmona, according to an Industry and Trade Ministry source.

The consumer and industrial electronics manufacturer was in advanced negotiations with the previous Israeli government, particularly the Center for Business Promotion and the Investments Center, with an aim to build an air-conditioner factory in the northern border town, according to the source.

However, Sharp decided to postpone the decision following the terrorist attacks in February and March and the subsequent Operation Grapes of Wrath in

Lebanon, and recently decided to cancel its plan altogether, given the political uncertainty in the region, according to several senior civil service sources.

The company itself prefers to say it had never expressed an interest in such a venture.

"We have not studied to make investment and manufacturing in Israel from the past up to the present," wrote Sharp regional assistant deputy general manager H. Hashimoto, in a statement to *The Jerusalem Post*.

However, Sharp's agent in Israel, Techno Ralco, has conceded such an investment was being explored. "We were going to make

the investment using Sharp know-how and manufacturing under Sharp's brand-name," Techno Ralco director Yaron Ruziak said last week. "That project is currently frozen."

"Many things are working against such projects," said Ruziak, when asked to state a reason for the delay, or withdrawal.

While refusing to state the exact value of the investment, Ruziak said many of the figures being mentioned, ranging from \$30 million to \$500m, were wildly inaccurate. Government sources put the prospective investment's value at up to \$10m.

"We speak too much and

announce too much," said Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce honorary president Elchanan S. Harel, criticizing the officials who leaked information about the deal before it was signed. "It's a typical case of Israeli premature decision-making and self-destroying public relations."

The Industry and Trade Ministry Investments Center confirmed Wednesday night that Techno Ralco had applied in Sharp's name for a financial package, not including grant aid, but reduced tax liabilities. "The application is still on the table," said center deputy manager Shmuel Mordechai. "We expect the company will return to us after it's done a little more homework."

BITS AND BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BIRD to present joint venture of the year award: The Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation will present its Joint Venture of the Year Award to Orkit Ltd. and ComStream Corp. for their development of a satellite modem for the Intelsat Intermediate Data Rate and International Business Service.

The BIRD foundation sponsors bilateral American and Israeli high-tech projects as well as trilateral joint ventures between Jordanian, American and Israeli companies via its TRIDE program.

DSS sells its system to Argentinean company: Diver Safety System of Jerusalem has announced the sale of \$500,000 worth of its Marom system to Life Tech of Argentina. Utilizing an infrared detector and sophisticated digital photography, the Marom measures cars' following distance and their respective speeds, allowing authorities to identify traffic violators without having to man the streets.

Dun and Bradstreet's Internet site features leading Israeli companies: Dun and Bradstreet has announced a new Internet site that features information about Israel's leading companies. By dialing into www.dunbd.co.il, viewers can access information about Israel's top 150 industrial companies and top 150 service providers. The site ranks the companies according to size and offers company profiles as well as information about each of the company's top managers.

Geotek Communications announces agreement with IBM: Geotek Communications, Inc. (Nasdaq: GOTEK) has announced a nationwide marketing agreement with IBM Availability Services, which will allow IBM to market Geotek's integrated suite of voice and packet data services to its customers. Under the terms of the agreement, IBM will market Geotek's wireless voice and data services in conjunction with the marketing of IBM services and provide customer support in all of Geotek's US markets.

Gartner Group to hold seminar: Representatives of the Gartner Group, a company that specializes in strategic planning for information systems companies, will sponsor a one-day seminar on data warehousing and data mining. The seminar will take place at the Tel Aviv Hilton. For more information, call (03) 574-5088.

Gino Industries signs agreement with Mitsubishi Electric: Gino Industries of Haifa has signed an agreement to distribute Mitsubishi Electric's products in Israel. Mitsubishi Electric, a subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi Ltd. Gino represents a number of electronics companies, mostly from Germany and Italy.

Nature Reserves Authority announces Internet site: Information about the Nature Reserves Authority, animals indigenous to the region and the NRA's trips can now be obtained via the Internet. The authority's site can be accessed at www.nature.co.il.

Net-Scene integrates Live Media technology into its software: Net-Scene of Herzliya has announced the integration of NetScene's Live Media technology into NetScene's Point Plus software. Live Media allows for the broadcast of sound and voice over the Internet and intranets while Net-Scene's software allows for Internet- and intranet-based corporate multimedia presentations and training.

Orbotech announces completion of field tests of its latest optical inspection system: Orbotech (Nasdaq: ORBKF) of Yavne has announced the successful completion of field tests of its LC-3090S system, the company's latest automated optical inspection system. The system was developed in cooperation with an unnamed Japanese flat panel display manufacturer. Orbotech designs, develops and manufactures automatic optical inspection systems for use in making printed circuit boards.

Personet sets up Internet guide of psychological services: Personet, an information service company, has set up an Internet site that offers people seeking counseling services a guide of how to choose a therapist and will provide a recommended list of therapists. The site's address is www.therapy-guide.com.

Tadiran Telecommunications receives FCC approval: The US's Federal Communications Commission has approved Tadiran Telecommunications' multilingual wireless system. The approval allows Tadiran (Nasdaq: TITELF) to install and run the 2.4 gigahertz system and gives the Petah Tikva-based company greater access to the American market.

Tadiran Telecommunications' subsidiary, TNN, announced that it won a tender to supply Bezeq with switches for its wide area network that are based on ATM frame relay technology. The project will extend for the next several years and is valued at NIS 36m.

2AM announces release of latest Internet game: 2AM Development Ltd. of Beit Shemesh has announced the release of its "Alliance and Defiance" interactive, real time multiplayer Internet game. 2AM develops multiplayer online games through its proprietary game tool, 2AM Creation, which allows two to 1,000 people to simultaneously play, talk and compete via the 2AM chat box. Six of 2AM's games are up and running and can be accessed through the World Wide Web at www.2am.com.

Vishay to sell to American auto makers: Vishay has announced that Ford, General Motors and Chrysler will purchase components from the company's Dimona factory. Vishay did not specify the value of the orders. This is the first time Ford is buying components from an Israeli manufacturer.

Saudi Arabia to pay \$1b. in farm subsidies

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's intention to pay \$1.07 billion owed to 50,000 cash-strapped farmers will not lure them back to the formerly lucrative and subsidized sector, analysts said yesterday.

"The payment will help setting farmers' personal finances right. It will serve to accelerate the trend of moving away from subsidized crops - grains - to water-efficient production of other crops," said a farm analyst by telephone from Riyadh. The state's Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization (GSFMO) said it would start repaying tomorrow. "The checks have been prepared and distributed to points of payment," said director-general Saleh al-Sulman this week.

Amid huge Gulf War liabilities and soft oil prices until early 1996,

the desert kingdom fell behind on payments to farmers, causing painful cash crunches.

But agriculture analysts say the damage from the long-delayed payments is done and little can now prompt more grain sowing in the world's biggest barley-importing nation.

Years of mounting debt coupled with sharp cuts in subsidies have changed the face of the sector, sending those who invested in agriculture mainly to reap generous state subsidies fleeing.

"People were badly hurt. A lot of the pivots have broken down in the past few years. It would not be easy to get them back up. A price of 1,500 riyals (a ton of wheat) from 4,000 a few years ago is not a tremendous incentive to plant either," a farmer said.

Analysts estimate the 1996 harvest yielded 1.0 to 1.2 million tons of wheat against a quota of 1.3 million. Local consumption is about 1.8 million tons. The gap is met with declining stocks.

John Wilson, director of the US Agricultural Trade Office in Riyadh, estimates the 1996 barley

harvest at about 450,000 tons, compared with a quota of one million tons. "The 550,000 ton shortfall is because there haven't been prompt payments and also the fact that quotas are allocated mainly to small farmers who have higher costs of production," he said.

"The costs of production of small farmers are often as high as the support price given for barley," he added. The barley support price is \$267 but after deductions for a religious tax and foreign mat the actual price is \$240.

Although 1997 quotas are not yet out, analysts say they may be higher than 1996 as second wheat prices earlier this year jolted the state into rethinking its plans to gradually cut output in a bid to reduce vast consumption of scarce water. "High cereal prices gave the government a fright. The rate at which the government is buying from farmers was at one stage only slightly higher than the world price," said a farm consultant.

Global wheat prices have fallen from early-1996 peaks, but wheat is still trading at double what it was three years ago.

US, Japan in new rice dispute

TOKYO (Reuters) - A Japanese plan to donate rice to poor countries would violate the spirit of a 1993 trade pact if Japan used its stocks of foreign rice for the aid, a senior US Department of Agriculture official said yesterday.

August Schumacher, the USDA's foreign agricultural service administrator, said the plan would run counter to agreements reached under the Uruguay Round talks of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"This violates the spirit of market access," he told an agricultural seminar in Tokyo. He said the agreements reached during the Uruguay Round talks meant Japanese consumers would have access to foreign rice.

Japan announced last week it would donate more than 60,000 tons of rice to poor countries in Africa, Asia and Central America.

Another 40,000 tons of rice aid will be announced soon, government officials said. It has not been decided whether the aid will come from stocks of domestic or foreign rice.

Under the GATT accords, Japan agreed to import 511,000 tons of rice in the fiscal year to the end of March.

An Australian agricultural official last month also voiced displeasure with the plan. Good harvests in the last two years have swollen grain stocks in Japan to about three million tons, the Agriculture Ministry said. A level of 1.5 million tons is considered desirable.

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NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY STOCK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Bank will be held at its Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevi Street, Tel Aviv, on Sunday, 15th December, 1996 at 12:00 noon, for the purpose of passing the following Resolutions:

- TO APPROVE the renewal of the Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance Policy of the Bank for the year 1996-1997 and the renewal of the policy and/or policies from year to year on conditions not materially worse than the conditions of the policy and/or policies being renewed and at a premium which does not exceed the previous year's premium by 10%.*
- TO APPROVE the granting of indemnities to the directors and other officers of the Bank in connection with the reduction of the Bank's holdings in real corporations.*

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his or her behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Bank.

Tel Aviv, 6th December, 1996

By Order of the Board
Jennifer James, Adv. Secretary

*Details of the insurance policies and their cost, and the resolutions concerning the granting of indemnities to the directors and other officers of the Bank may be examined in the office of the Secretariat of the Bank at the Bank's Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevi Street, Tel Aviv, during normal business hours.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000

(rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.12.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6117	3.6700	—	—	3.6490
German mark	3.2448	3.2967	3.18	3.35	3.2770
Pound sterling	2.0781	2.1117	2.04	2.15	2.1012
French franc	5.2672	5.3522	5.17	5.43	5.3198
Japanese yen (100)	0.6162	0.6252	0.60	0.64	0.6219
Swiss franc	2.8900	2.9255	2.83	2.97	2.9084
Dutch florin	1.8528	1.8925	1.82	1.91	1.8728
Spanish peseta	2.4688	2.4885	2.41	2.54	2.4882
Swedish krona	0.4782	0.4839	0.48	0.50	0.4807
Norwegian krona	0.4581	0.5062	0.48	0.52	0.5027
Denish krone	0.5427	0.5515	0.58	0.55	0.5487
Finnish mark	0.6957	0.7070	0.68	0.72	0.7032
Canadian dollar	2.3839	2.4328	2.35	2.47	2.4156
Australian dollar	2.5673	2.6251	2.54	2.67	2.6175
S. African rand	10.8322	10.7044	0.82	0.71	1.0704
Belgian franc (10)	1.0382	1.0245	0.88	1.04	1.0180
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8638	3.0013	2.80	3.03	3.0857
Italian lira (1000)	2.1183	2.1485	2.07	2.18	2.1350
Jordanian dinar	4.5100	4.5200	4.51	4.52	4.5200
Israeli sheqel	0.8830	1.0000	0.88	1.00	1.0000
Irish punt	4.0150	4.0788	—	—	4.0528
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2987	5.3720	5.19	5.45	5.3481
Portuguese escudo (200)	2.4987	2.5096	2.42	2.55	2.4842

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SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

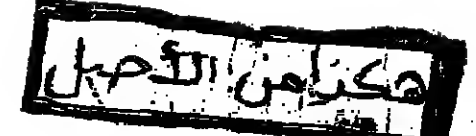
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Stocks up as investors await decision on budget cuts

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



INVESTORS will be watching Sunday's meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor for clues on the size and direction of proposed budget cuts...

Wall Street pushes world markets down

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares lost their early strong gains by the close. A fresh bout of Wall Street weakness offset the positive effect of sharp falls in sterling...

New York stocks close mixed

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were mixed yesterday, struggling against a big increase in bond market interest rates, as trading staled after two days of profit-taking on last month's rally.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFY, FFY

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change, % Volume

Two-sided trading table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change, % Volume

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Source: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various companies like Amgen, AstraZeneca, etc.

NEW YORK

Table of New York stock prices for companies like Amgen, AstraZeneca, etc.

Key Representative Rates table with columns for Currency, Rate, Change

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table with columns for Index, Last, Change

Other stock market indexes table with columns for Index, Last, Change

Israeli stocks in US table with columns for Stock, Last, Change

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC table with columns for Stock, Last, Change

INTEL MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US) table with columns for Currency, Last, Change

Libor rates table with columns for Rate, Last, Change

Foreign financial data courtesy of ComStock Trading Ltd.

NYSE COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities table with columns for Commodity, Last, Change

London commodities table with columns for Commodity, Last, Change

Spot market metals (US) table with columns for Metal, Last, Change

New York metal futures table with columns for Metal, Last, Change

London metal futures table with columns for Metal, Last, Change

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REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Munisan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 8 a.m., German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111, 281048.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP Service, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun, 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-8964.

JERUSALEM HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

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SHARON Immanuel Church (Lutheran) Tel Aviv-Yafo, 15 Beer Hoffman (near 17 Elat Street). Tel. 03-620654 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

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DEXON

Leading strategist urges secrecy for war preparations

STEVE RODAN

A LEADING strategist called yesterday for secrecy in the nation's efforts to prepare for the possibility of war with its Arab enemies.

Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yisrael Tal, a senior Defense Ministry adviser and regarded as the nation's leading strategist, said that maintaining what he called a fog over such preparations to defend Israel from attack could make the difference in overcoming the numerical superiority of Israel's enemies.

Since August, military sources said, the IDF has spent close to NIS 1 billion to stockpile ammunition and equipment, as part of an effort to repel any Syrian attack on the Golan Heights.

Tal, speaking at a seminar on the 1967 Six Day War at Tel Aviv University, said a lesson that has to be adopted by

Israel from that conflict is that surprise is the key to overcoming an enemy with greater resources.

"There has to be a fog over the preparedness for war," Tal said. "We have to adopt this lesson."

Tal, who rarely appears in public, has met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and urged that Israel develop a new concept against the Arab and Iranian missile threat, both conventional and non-conventional. Aides to the prime minister said he is reviewing IDF programs against such threats.

The Defense Ministry official, who did not refer to

Israel's current tensions with the Arab states, said a key lesson of the 1967 war was the effectiveness of a preemptive strike. He dismissed the military doctrine that an offensive force has to be three times as great as that of the defender as well as the notion that strategic depth means Israel can absorb a military strike.

Tal was speaking as reports from the West assert that Russian scientists are helping Iran manufacture medium-range missiles that can strike virtually any point in Israel. The Washington Times reported that the Iranians are trying to produce the Soviet ballistic missile SS-4.

Western analysts said the missile is meant to attack Israeli population centers from Iranian batteries 1,700 kilometers away.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert inserts a cornerstone scroll alongside Interior Ministry Jerusalem District Director Mati Hurta at a ceremony yesterday marking the start of construction of 1,300 housing units on land formerly belonging to Kibbutz Ramat Rahel. (Joe Makobson)

ALBRIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)
tion to advance our interests around the world."

Though the appointments of Lake and Berger amount to a second-term reshuffling, the nominations of Albright and Cohen are trailblazing.

Albright, whose family fled the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia when she was 11, would be the first woman to hold America's senior diplomatic post. The selection of Cohen is in keeping with Clinton's promise to include Republicans in his administration.

Albright's selection comes amid mounting pressure from women's groups, who argued that Clinton's reelection was due in large part to his support from female voters.

As UN ambassador, Albright became known as a hawk on US intervention in Bosnia. NATO enlargement and denying reelection to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt.

Cohen, 56, is a Republican moderate who announced earlier this year that he was retiring from the Senate after three terms. He rose to national prominence when he cast one of the first Republican votes to impeach President Nixon and later played a leading role in the Iran-Contra hearings.

Lake, 57, a congenial but reserved foreign affairs expert, has eschewed the spotlight as Clinton's national security adviser. The author of five books on foreign policy, Lake served in the State Department in both the Nixon and Carter administrations.

Berger, 51, worked in Lake's shadow as deputy national security adviser but won Clinton's respect for his consensus building and organizational abilities. He is respected for his ability to straddle the intersection of politics and foreign affairs, but there are questions about his credentials for molding foreign policy.

Before joining the Clinton administration, he worked as an international trade attorney and partner at a major Washington law firm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese media: IDF arrested SLA soldiers
The IDF has detained several South Lebanese Army soldiers for questioning in the past week on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbullah. Lebanese newspapers and radio stations reported yesterday. Meanwhile, Hizbullah claimed that two SLA soldiers from Beit Laif village, in the western sector of the security zone, had defected to its ranks. The report was carried by Hizbullah's radio station, which gave the names of the men, brothers Majid and Sulaiman Hamayed, and their identity card numbers. David Rudge

Court OKs no prisoner-attorney meeting
The General Security Service can, for now, continue to refuse to allow Islamic Jihad activist Muhand Abu Romi to meet with his attorney, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.
The court, after examining classified material submitted by the GSS, extended an order blocking such meetings that was due to expire today. Abu Romi had petitioned the court on the issue on Wednesday, upon learning that the GSS planned to ask for an extension of the order. *Itim*

GSS asks to block entrance of two US Jews
The General Security Service believes that two American Jews, Shelly Benvenisti and Hillel Blustein, are connected to Jewish terror groups and are a threat to public order, the service told the High Court of Justice yesterday. The two had petitioned the court against the Interior Ministry's refusal to allow them into the country. *Itim*

Netanyahu announces \$40m. bequest
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a \$40 million bequest to the Israel Museum last night. Speaking at the opening of the "Empire of the Sultans" exhibition, Netanyahu said that two weeks ago a donor that wished to remain anonymous offered to give \$40m. to the museum on condition that the government pay the VAT. There had been dissent on the part of some ministers, he said, but eventually they agreed. *Greer Fay Cashman*

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)
Moratino said of Arafat. "He hopes to have the opportunity to meet him soon."

Netanyahu advisor David Bar-Ilan said no date had been set and there was only a "very slight chance" of a meeting today.

While Netanyahu declared in Europe this week that one meeting between the two would be sufficient to wrap up a Hebron pullback deal, it remains unclear if such a meeting would accomplish this.

Officials in Jerusalem confirm that Israel believes it is the Palestinian's turn to compromise on the types of guns that PA

forces would bear, now that Israel has yielded on its insistence for explicit language permitting reentry of the IDF in Palestinian-controlled parts of Hebron.

"Once this is done, compromises are expected to be found to questions of the opening to Palestinians of the Hebron market and a street that runs along the Jewish quarter.

Moratino established a hot line with Palestinian negotiators yesterday to monitor peace talks with Israel.

He said the line would be used for frequent telephone calls to Palestinian negotiators Mahmoud Abbas and Saeb Erekat.

PORTUGAL

(Continued from Page 1)
Sampaio told the packed parliament that the expulsion was an "iniquitous act with deep and disastrous consequences" for Portugal, at the time one of Europe's richest and most powerful nations.

"It was ... a renunciation of the best we were and had in favor of narrow, short-term profit," he said.

Tichon said the parliament had tried to rescind the ban several years ago but had failed. The decision this time was passed unanimously. In his speech, he recalled the events 500 years ago and said that the expulsion of the Jews had led to the establishment of strong Jewish communities in countries like Holland and England, which flourished while Portugal lagged behind. He also recalled the fate of the Marranos, who were forced to convert.

He called for conciliation and noted the current good relations between Jerusalem and Lisbon.

Speaking at Lisbon synagogue, Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat welcomed the "extremely strong symbolism" of the solemn acts.

On Wednesday in Belmonte, Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Vera Jardim called the expulsion "a black piece of our history."
The Portuguese state owed Jews "moral reparation" for centuries of "brutal persecution, deaths at the stake ... and confessions and abjurations obtained by torture" at the hands of the Inquisition. Vera Jardim said.

The 1496 expulsion was politically motivated. Manuel saw a chance of ruling the whole Iberian peninsula by marrying Spain's princess Isabella.

But her parents, Ferdinand and Isabella, had already deported Spain's Jews four years earlier and would only bless the marriage if Manuel followed suit.

On Wednesday, Belmonte's more than 120 Jews saw a generations-old dream come true with the opening of the Elijah synagogue, a modest white building perched among low dark stone walls.

"Being here today is like a dream," Tichon said, adding that the town was "a living symbol of the resistance of the Jewish people."

THAILAND

(Continued from Page 13)
During the talks, it was decided to establish a joint economic committee and compile a draft trade agreement. Eran invited Seoul to consider using the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as a vehicle for investments.

Early next year, the two sides will sign an agreement to encourage and protect investments.

Exports to Korea reached \$299m. in 1995, with imports amounting to \$390m. Trade volume in the first nine months this year stood at \$551m.

The Israeli team requested the countries begin discussing Israel's possible involvement in the OECD. This follows Korea's acceptance to the organization in recent weeks.

The Koreans promised to consider Israel's suggestion to establish a free trade area, but pointed out Korea has no such agreement with any nation.

"The talks were very successful," Shleif said. "They are a further sign of the deep links between the two countries."

With regard to recent media speculation of a free trade agreement with India, Shleif said that he has indicated that if India was interested he would be happy to commence negotiations.

"So far I've heard nothing," he said.

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Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Sunday Dec. 22 ON THE TRAIL OF BAR KOCHBA
With the support of Rabbi Akiva, Bar Kochba built an army and rebelled against the Romans. After three years of battles, during which time the population built an enormous underground system, the revolt was put down and Jewish settlement in Judea was destroyed. We'll visit the Amaziah and Hazan caves (an underground city), the huge complex of Beit Guvrin, Jerusalem's Shrine of the Book which contains the letters of Bar Kochba found in the Judean Desert etc. NIS 195 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Carol-Anne Bernheim

Thursday Jan. 9 THE GALILEE - PEOPLE AND PLACES
Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druze, Beduin, Circassians - living together in a spectacular Mediterranean landscape makes the Galilee the interesting place it is. Our tour will take us to Kanakab, Harazit, Yodfat, Shorashim, Saknin and Eshtar - a mosaic of human scenery living in an ideal setting. We'll meet the people and see the sites. NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Mark Rosenstein

Thursday Jan. 23 TU BISHVAT, MAN AND EARTH
On this special day, we'll visit the places and people who continue the traditions of centuries with the use of medicinal herbs, plants, berries, trees and even learn from the animals in the region. We'll be in the Galilee and we'll meet the experts in the Druze village of Yerka, Yanuch and Deir Hana with its 2,400 year old olive trees. We'll hear from Hamzi Araida and Wahid Maadi and come away a lot wiser. NIS 190 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Yuvai Avidor

Tuesday Feb. 11 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, Pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-fortune. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the Mona Lisa, in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 180 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Israel Shalem

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% off when you book all four tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.



EYES ON THE PRIZE - Jason Kidd (left) of the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat guard Tim Hardaway fight for a loose ball during the second period of Wednesday night's game in Miami. Miami defeated Dallas 101-79.

Orlando ties low-scoring record in home-court loss to Cleveland

ORLANDO (AP) - The Orlando Magic tied the NBA record for fewest points in a game Wednesday night as they were routed 84-57 by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Magic became the third team since the advent of the 24-second shot clock to be held to 57, matching the output by the Milwaukee Hawks in a Feb. 27, 1955 loss to Boston and Philadelphia's futility against Miami on Feb. 21, 1996.

Terrill Brandon scored 22 points and Chris Mills added 17 for Cleveland, which held Orlando to one field goal - Darrell Armstrong's 3-pointer - in the fourth quarter.

The loss was the injury-depleted Magic's fifth in "tumble games" at Orlando Arena, surpassing their total from all of last season.

Heat 101, Mavericks 79

Tim Hardaway scored a season-high 33 points and host Miami extended its franchise-record winning streak to nine games.

The Heat tied a team record by making 15 3-point shots, and their 53 3-point tries broke the top record.

Hardaway hit 11 of 13 shots and went 6-for-6 from 3-point range.

The Heat swept their series against Dallas for the fifth year in a row.

Pistons 100, Hawks 90

Terry Mills scored 14 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead Detroit over Orlando.

Detroit also got 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists from Grant Hill, as well as 22 points from Joe Dumars. Mookie Blaylock led the

Hawks with 21 points, and Steve Smith added 18.

The Hawks led 79-73 with 9:11 to go, but the Pistons came back with a 7-0 run and regained the lead on a 3-pointer by Mills with 7:10 left. Atlanta continued to hang close, but Mills hit three more 3-pointers and Detroit pulled away in the last two minutes.

Knicks 109, Nets 102

Patrick Ewing rebounded from one of his worst games with 30 points and visiting New York hit 17 of 22 free throws in the fourth quarter in beating New Jersey.

Former Nets Buck Williams and Chris Childs also came up big as the Knicks won for only the second time in six games. Williams had 11 of his 13 points in the final quarter and Childs hit a key 3-pointer with a minute to play.

Kendall Gill and Robert Pack each had 20 points for New Jersey, while Jacques Williams added 18 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out with 3:07 to play. Gill also had 11 rebounds and Pack added 12 assists.

Jazz 101, Lakers 75

Karl Malone scored 26 points and John Stockton added 18, including four 3-pointers, as host Utah won its 12th straight game.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 21 points and Elden Campbell added 12 for the

Lakers, whose three-game winning streak was halted as they were held to their lowest total of the season.

Stockton had three of his 3-pointers and a 2-pointer in a 13-2 run that broke a 24-24 tie and put Utah ahead for good. The Jazz led by at least 10 points the rest of the way.

Utah moved within two victories of matching the longest winning streak in franchise history.

Rockets 94, Celtics 89

Charles Barkley scored 19 points and grabbed 27 rebounds for host Houston, which was bolstered by the return of Hakeem Olajuwon from a heart problem.

Olajuwon, returning after missing Monday's loss at Toronto due to a second episode of an irregular heartbeat in two weeks, played 40 minutes and had 16 points, five blocked shots and seven rebounds along with one steal and three assists as Houston improved to 16-2.

Barkley, who entered the game as the No. 2 rebounder in the NBA with 15.7 per game average, added seven assists and three steals.

Spurs 113, 76ers 103

Dominique Wilkins, playing in his 1,000th NBA game, scored 24 points to help host San Antonio break its eight-game losing streak.

Avery Johnson also scored 24 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter and seven in the last 1:06.

The injury-plagued Spurs, who have played all season without All-Star center David Robinson, improved to 3-13 with their first win since beating the Los Angeles Lakers on November 13.

Suns 118, Warriors 87

A.C. Green and Michael Finley scored a season-high 21 points apiece as host Phoenix won for only the second time this season.

The Suns, who held a 66-39 halftime lead and led by at least 18 the rest of the way, had their highest point total of the season and exceeded 100 for only the second time.

Green led all rebounders with 12 as the Suns held a 50-39 advantage on the boards. Danny Manning came off the bench to score 20 and Kevin Johnson had nine assists. Latrell Sprewell led Golden State with 22 points.

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	14	4	.778	-	Houston	16	2	.889	-
New York	10	8	.556	3	Utah	14	2	.875	1
Orlando	8	8	.500	5 1/2	Minnesota	7	7	.500	8 1/2
Washington	7	8	.467	6	Dallas	5	11	.313	10
Philadelphia	4	12	.250	8	Denver	5	13	.278	11
Boston	4	12	.250	8 1/2	San Antonio	3	13	.188	13
New Jersey	3	10	.231	9 1/2	Vancouver	2	18	.111	14
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	18	1	.941	-	Seattle	14	5	.737	-
Detroit	13	3	.813	2 1/2	L.A. Lakers	13	7	.650	1 1/2
Cleveland	11	5	.688	4 1/2	Portland	10	8	.556	3 1/2
Atlanta	10	8	.556	5 1/2	L.A. Clippers	8	12	.400	8
Charlotte	8	8	.500	7 1/2	Golden State	8	12	.333	7 1/2
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	7 1/2	Sacramento	6	12	.333	7 1/2
Indiana	7	8	.467	8	Phoenix	2	14	.125	10 1/2
Toronto	5	11	.313	10 1/2					

WEDNESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

New York 109, New Jersey 102
 Cleveland 84, Orlando 57
 Miami 101, Dallas 79
 Detroit 100, Atlanta 90
 Utah 101, L.A. Lakers 75
 Houston 94, Boston 89
 San Antonio 113, Philadelphia 103
 Phoenix 118, Golden State 87
 Indiana 127, Vancouver 80

Becker, Henman advance in Munich

Even an extra racket isn't enough as retiring Hlasek loses to Becker

MUNICH (AP) - Tim Henman beat Wimbledon runner-up MaliVai Washington 7-6(3), 6-3 yesterday to reach the semifinals of the Grand Slam Cup and in the process doubled his earnings for the year.

In tomorrow's semifinal, Henman will face home favorite Boris Becker, who sent Jakob Hlasek back into retirement with a quick 6-4, 6-1 victory.

By beating Washington, Henman made sure of going home at least \$431,250 richer. Before Munich, his earnings for the year were \$421,997, while in two years on the tour he has won \$591,432 in prize money.

The 22-year-old Briton, a quarter-finalist in Wimbledon, blasted 20 aces past Washington.

Hlasek, who came out of retirement for the most lucrative tournament in the game, at one point even tried playing with a racket in each hand.

It was meant as a joke, but it plainly demonstrated Becker's supremacy.

Becker broke for a 3-2 lead and never looked behind.

He started the second set with another break and romped through the match in 58 minutes, firing 17 aces.

Becker's only slip came when he served for the match at 5-0. Hlasek took a racket in each hand, but it didn't help and he lost the point when his left-handed return went wide.

He reversed to the more traditional one-racket style, however, and broke Becker for the only time, albeit helped by two straight Becker double-faults.

"Something strange happened, all of a sudden I couldn't put a serve in the court," said Becker, who made four straight errors to lose the game.

But he rallied in the next and when Hlasek's

backhand volley sailed long, his career was over.

His was given a standing ovation in the Olympic Hall and received a bouquet of red roses.

"It's a loss for the tour. He's played so well for so long and he is a very nice guy. But everyone has to know when to retire," Becker said.

Hlasek was only an alternate for the \$6 million event that brings together the 16 men with the best records in all of the four Grand Slam events of the year - the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon. The winner will get \$1.625m.

But with five players withdrawing, including No. 1 Pete Sampras and No. 2 Michael Chang, Hlasek was asked if he wanted to play.

Although he had already retired in November, he agreed and by clearing the first round against Cedric Pioline, Hlasek took a retirement bonus of \$262,500.

minutes in the first period and seven minutes into the second without a shot on net. Bot Sza Barnes, Andrew Johnson and Jager scored in the second period and Ron Francis completed the Penguins' run in the third for the final margin.

Sharks 2, Stars 1

Kelly Hrudey made 35 saves and Marty McSorley scored a shorthanded goal in the second period for visiting San Jose.

Hrudey needed to be sharp as the Stars outshot the Sharks 36-18. San Jose also had a good night killing penalties, holding the Dallas power play scoreless on eight chances.

San Jose improved to 3-1-0 in its last four games.

McCarty, Fedorov lead Red Wings over Capitals

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) - Darren McCarty and Sergei Fedorov each scored a goal, and Kevin Hodson made 19 saves as the Detroit Red Wings defeated the Washington Capitals 2-0 Wednesday night.

McCarty's goal was Detroit's third consecutive on the power play over the last two games. Fedorov scored the other Red Wings' goal short-handed, giving them their fourth shorthanded goal of the season and clinching coach Scotty Bowman's 990th career victory.

Hodson won his first game in his second start of the season following a 2-2 tie against Chicago on Oct. 25. Hodson now is 3-0-1 in his career.

Flyers 1, Rangers 1

Eric Lindros scored his first goal of the season for visiting Philadelphia.

Lindros, who has missed 23 games this season due to a groin injury, broke up a shutout by Rangers goaltender Mike Richter at 13:25 of the third period. Richter was brilliant in making 39 saves.

Brian Noonan gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal at 12:40

of the first period.

Canucks 7, Sabres 6, OT

Martin Gelinas scored two unassisted goals to help visiting Vancouver overcome a hat trick by Buffalo's Michael Grosek.

Mike Sillinger scored the winning goal with just 1:22 left in overtime when he drove the puck between Buffalo goalie Dominik Hasek's legs from the slot.

Jyrki Lumme, Donald Brashear, Troy Crowder and Esa Tikkanen also scored for the Canucks, who won for the first time in four games. Rob Ray, Donald Audette, Michael Peca also scored for the Sabres, who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Braves 3, Canadiens 3

Visiting Boston entered a three-goal lead, but Ryan Miller scored with 4:11 remaining in the third period to give the Bruins a victory.

DiMairo's goal gave Boston its third win in four games, drawing the Bruins

into a third-place tie with Montreal in the Northeast Division.

Rookie goaltender Scott Bailey, forced into the game in the first period when Bill Ranford was injured, recorded his first NHL victory despite allowing three goals on 15 shots.

Penguins 4, Senators 2

NHL league-leader Jaromir Jagr scored his 24th goal at Pittsburgh scored four times within nine minutes to beat in front of the smallest crowd ever at the Corel Center.

A crowd of 11,679 watched the game, breaking the previous low of 12,327 set earlier this year when the Penguins were also the visiting team.

The Penguins had gone the last 12

minutes in the first period and seven minutes into the second without a shot on net. Bot Sza Barnes, Andrew Johnson and Jager scored in the second period and Ron Francis completed the Penguins' run in the third for the final margin.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division					Central Division							
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida	18	4	38	79	51	Detroit	15	6	4	34	81	53
Philadelphia	14	12	30	75	75	Dallas	15	6	1	29	84	83
New Jersey	18	10	37	59	60	Chicago	12	12	6	27	71	67
Washington	13	12	1	27	69	St. Louis	13	13	0	26	78	78
N.Y. Rangers	10	15	5	25	81	Toronto	11	15	2	22	79	89
N.Y. Islanders	7	10	8	23	83	Phoenix	8	13	4	20	58	74
Tampa Bay	7	15	2	16	67							

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division					Pacific Division								
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Detroit	15	6	4	34	81	53	Colorado	17	0	4	38	67	56
Dallas	15	6	1	29	84	83	Vancouver	14	11	1	28	84	83
Chicago	12	12	6	27	71	67	Edmonton	18	14	1	27	94	89
St. Louis	13	13	0	26	78	78	Los Angeles	11	12	3	25	71	81
Toronto	11	15	2	22	79	89	San Jose	10	13	4	22	69	87
Phoenix	8	13	4	20	58	74	Calgary	10	15	2	22	84	75
							Anaheim	9	14	4	22	73	86

WEDNESDAY'S NHL RESULTS:

Vancouver 7, Buffalo 6, OT
 Pittsburgh 4, Ottawa 2
 Boston 4, Montreal 3
 Philadelphia 1, N.Y. Rangers 1, tie
 Detroit 2, Washington 0
 San Jose 2, Dallas 1
 Colorado 2, Edmonton 0
 Anaheim 3, Tampa Bay 1

Mac. TA w/ ups Panionios

Sloppy win moves team closer to third

THE MACCABIS may have had some famous victories over the Greeks, but last night certainly wasn't one of them.

In one of the worst displays of basketball ever to disgrace Yad Eliahu, Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Greece's Panionios 69-57 last night, raising their record to 5-4 and bolstering their chances for a third-place finish in Group A of their Euroleague competition, but raising many questions about their consistency on offense.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was on hand at Yad Eliahu, but it was the offense that needed to be ministered to throughout the game. At times the two teams seemed intent not to score, as if shooting a ball through the basket might suddenly spread some deadly virus in the arena.

Both teams were plagued with a serious case of schoolyard basketball, flinging up desperation shots instead of playing anything resembling an organized offense. Only the fact that Maccabi played better defense, coupled with the Greeks' microscopic shooting percentage, allowed coach Zvi Sherf's club to escape with the victory.

It was clear from the early going when Maccabi grabbed a 12-5 lead that the Greeks just weren't on their level. But that was when Maccabi was still playing smart basketball, breaking whenever possible against the much slower Greek side. Lucky for them their fast break was working - the outside game was absolutely nowhere.

Maccabi missed its first six three-point attempts as the usually prolific Oded Katash couldn't hit the side of a barn. Katash did a better job reading the Hanukka candlelighting blessings from a siddur before the game than he did on the court and spent much of the first half on the bench.

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It was Nadav Henetz who finally lit the first three-point shot for Maccabi, opening up a 12-5 bulge with just over six minutes to play. Katash's replacement, Brad Leaf, added one himself moments later, and a hoop by Derrick Sharp gave Maccabi its biggest lead, 31-17, with 4:45 to play in the half.

But nice as that sounds, the truth is Maccabi should have been leading by much more. No one on Panionios was impressive, and outside of a couple of three-pointers by Keith Gatlin, the Greeks had little to show on offense, as exemplified by their abysmal 26% shooting mark from two-point range in the half.

Instead of taking advantage of the situation, playing team ball, and racking up the score, Sherf's club took dumb shots and went off with only a 39-28 halftime lead.

FIBA officials on hand might have wanted to give the crowd and those watching on TV a Hanukka gift by cancelling the rest of the abysmal game, but unfortunately, we all had to sit through another appalling half.

A three-pointer by Johnson, who had a fine offensive game and did a superb job stopping Panionios' Theofanis Christodoulou for most of the game, boosted Maccabi to a 49-36 lead, but Christodoulou soon took advantage of Johnson's third foul to take him inside twice. Meanwhile, Miroslav Pecsarski also got hot for the Greeks, and when he scored with 11:10 left, they trailed by just seven, 51-44.

However, fortunately perennial shot-in-the-arm Brad Leaf did it again, hitting a couple of hoops to bring Maccabi out of a trance-like state in which players seemed to compete for the worst possible shot to take. Johnson also came

through in the clutch, his hoop with six minutes left giving Maccabi back its 14-point bulge, 61-47. The Greeks got back within 10, but a few good minutes by Doron Sheffer (15 points) at the end kept things from getting any worse out of hand than they already had.

For the record, Buck Johnson led Maccabi to Tel Aviv with 19 points. Keith Gatlin led pathetic Panionios with 10 points.

What was most frustrating for Maccabi fans was the fact that the offense had played so well of late only to again freeze up on the Yad Eliahu floor, where the team has had its problems this season, especially in Euroleague play. Clearly, a C-offensive effort will not be enough to beat Turkey's Utker next week in Tel Aviv, a game Maccabi needs to win to assure them one of the top three spots in Group A.

On paper, Maccabi could even finish second, thanks to CSKA's 70-55 home victory over Stefanel Milan Wednesday night.

However, despite the victory, the game raised more questions than answers: How did Maccabi fail to get Kenny Gatlin out of the game, despite the fact that the Greek's foreigner had four fouls for most of the second half?

What is (still) the matter with Randy White on offense? Who's the go-to guy when Katash and Sheffer are both on the court, and should they be on the court together? And just what gets into this club when they walk into Yad Eliahu?

Maccabi's future in Euroleague play this year depends a good deal on Sherf quickly finding the answers to these disturbing questions, preferably before his team's important league game against Hapoel Galil Elyon on Monday night.

Hapoel Tel Aviv hopes to shake up mighty Betar

DEREK FATTAL

WHILE this weekend's 12th round of National League play offers little in the way of classic encounters, some intriguing matches lie in store for the punters.

Two sides that have captured the headlines for very different reasons recently, Hapoel Tel Aviv and league leader Betar Jerusalem, provide the most colorful pairing.

Hapoel coach Moshe Sinai salvaged his career last weekend after the reds managed to stifle Maccabi Tel Aviv in the Big Orange's derby game. That result could give his players the lift necessary to take on the league leaders.

Hapoel placed international full-back Felix Halfon on the transfer list this week, after the player indicated that he was not prepared to squander his talents after being demoted to the substitutes' bench. Nevertheless, on the basis of their derby performance Halfon will not be missed by his former colleagues.

The Betarists will be hoping for a sterling showing from Ronnen Harazi who finally signed terms with Sunderland during the week. This could well be Harazi's last game for the capital's big outfit if his work permit application is processed quickly by the British authorities.

Things have gone smoothly this season for Eli Cohen's side, but it remains to be seen if the goals

keep going in once Harazi has departed.

The other main challengers for pole position, Hapoel Petah Tikva, face off against Zefirim Holon, another hitting team, in a round 11 against Hapoel Haifa, the boys from Petah Tikva must fancy their chances of taking three points this weekend.

Champions Maccabi Tel Aviv looked state against their city neighbors and cannot afford to drop any further behind Betar. It does not take an Einstein to figure out that the problem lies in defense. Last season Maccabi conceded just 16 goals and netted 59. So far during the current campaign they have let in 14 goals on their way to scoring 17.

Unless the Tel Avivians register a win this weekend at Teddy Stadium against Hapoel Jerusalem, Avraham Grant will have little alternative but to begin a wholesale reshaping of his squad, particularly given the increasing likelihood that midfielder Avi Nimni and injured defenseman Gadi Brumi will move overseas shortly.

Hapoel Tel Aviv entered the relegation berth last weekend, and has an opportunity to make amends and please the whole Arab sector if it can defeat yesterday's men Maccabi Haifa. The loss of

Berkowitz, Revivo and Hazan has torn the heart out of Giora Spiegel's side and as the season progresses there seems less and less of an indication that a 71 revival is close at hand.

At the bottom of the standings Hapoel Beit She'an looks to have its work cut-out against third-placed Beersheba.

The man who will be watching the weekend's league play more closely than anyone is national squad coach Shlomo Scharf, with this being the last round before the December 15th World Cup qualifying fixture against Luxembourg.

With Gadi Brumer set to miss that game Scharf needs to tighten up his defense and make certain he picks the right striking force. Bnei Yehuda forward Alon Mizrahi joined the squad this week, and will be aiming to impress as he leads his side into action against Hapoel Kfar Sava.

This weekend's National League Soccer fixtures (kick-off tomorrow 2:30 pm unless otherwise stated): Zefirim Holon v Hapoel Petah Tikva, Holon, today; Maccabi Haifa v Hapoel Tel Aviv, Kiryat Eliezer, 4 pm; Hapoel Kfar Sava v Bnei Yehuda, Kfar Sava, today, 2 pm; Hapoel Tel Aviv v Betar Jerusalem, Bloomfield Stadium, 5:45 pm; Hapoel Jerusalem v Maccabi Tel Aviv, Teddy Stadium; Ironi Rishon LeZion v Maccabi Herzliya, Rishon LeZion; Hapoel Beit She'an v Hapoel Beersheba, today, 2 pm; Maccabi Petah Tikva v Hapoel Haifa.

Berkowitz scores consolation goal as Arsenal defeats Southampton

LONDON (Reuter) - Midfielder Paul Merson seized the first goal and contributed to the second to spur Arsenal to a 3-1 Premier League win over Southampton on Wednesday night, putting the London team three points clear at the top.

Merson grabbed the first goal, his seventh of the season, with a brilliant strike following a free kick just two minutes before half-time, and was brought down by Norwegian defender Claus Lundekvam to provide Ian Wright with a 57th minute goal from the penalty spot.

By then Arsenal had shrugged off the lethargy that inhibited their football in the first 25 minutes, though it surfaced again eight

minutes from time when Israeli Eyal Berkowitz reduced the deficit with a close-range goal.

However, substitute Paul Shaw sealed the home victory in the final moments of the game with a fine strike for his first-ever Arsenal goal.

Aston Villa 2, West Ham 0

Dwight Yorke hit his ninth goal in 10 games to lift Aston Villa into fifth place on 27 points after a 2-0 win at West Ham.

Villa outclassed the home side but looked as though they were going to be reliant on a first-half headed goal by Ugo Ehiogu.

However, when West Ham lost concentration at an Andy Townsend corner 16 minutes from time, Yorke took grateful advantage, peeling away from his marker to nod past goalkeeper

Ludek Miklosko.

PREMIER LEAGUE WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Arsenal 3, Southampton 1
 West Ham 0, Aston Villa 2

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Arsenal	18	0	4	2	28	13	81
Liverpool	15	9	4	2	28	13	51
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	28	17	59
Wimbledon	16	4	2	25	15	29	59
Aston Villa	16	6	5	21	15	27	27
Man. Utd	16	7	5	3	29	22	26
Sheff. Wed.	16	6	5	6	22	24	24
Derby	16	6	5	4	23	16	28
Sheff. Wed.	15	6	4	17	17	21	21
Tottenham	15	6	4	18	15	20	20
Leicester	15	6	2	8	18	21	20
Leeds	15	8	1	8	15	20	16
Sunderland	14	6	6	13	15	17	17
West Ham	14	4	5	17	20	17	17
Middlesbrough	13	3	5	8	20	28	14
Southampton	16	6	4	9	24	31	18
Blackburn	15	2	6	15	20	12	12
Coventry	15	1	7	7	9	21	10
Notts Forest	15	1	6	12	28	9	

Baseball players OK labor deal

NEW YORK (AP) - Major League Baseball players ratified the proposed labor deal yesterday, ending the strike of the players and ensuring no more work stoppages through 2000.

The deal, ratified by owners last week, was approved unanimously by the union's executive board during its meeting at Dorado, Puerto Rico.

With the agreement, revolutionary changes come into place in America's most traditional sport.

For the first time since professional major leagues began in 1871, there will be interleague play. Each team will play 15 or 16 inter-league games next season.

PREMIER LEAGUE BRIEFS

Sheffers signs Norwegian Iversen

Sheffers Hotspur, hoping to salvage its fading season, yesterday announced the signing of Norwegian striker Steffen Iversen from Norway's Rosenborg.

Iversen, who arrived on a \$2.5 million transfer, helped Rosenborg win the 2000 Norwegian Cup, Wednesday over AC Milan in the Champions League. The deal with the English team was made before the Wednesday match, official

Egypt may charge 2 more as spies

News agencies

CAIRO - Egypt may charge two Israeli-Arab women in absentia for leading a spy ring, an official said here yesterday.

Hisham Seraya, the state security prosecutor, said the two women are suspected of having worked with Azzam Azzam to recruit an Egyptian to spy for Israel. Seraya identified the women as Zahra Yousef Jreis and Mona Ahmed Shawahna.

Seraya said the two women are still being investigated and may face trial on charges of recruiting spies.

Initial media reports that the women are being held in Egypt, where they reportedly were arrested in November, later proved untrue. Lawyer Ayoub Kara, who is representing the Azzam family, said he was shocked to hear Egypt had arrested two women in connection with Azzam's case, and that an investigation revealed the women were in Ibillin village, near Haifa.

from Israel who are sitting in jail [in Egypt] because they were in contact with Azzam, came to us only from the press, and after we checked it we discovered that they are in Israel, in their homes, and all of this is nonsense that does not even need to be addressed," said Sami Azzam, Azzam Azzam's brother.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the new charges, although government officials have denied the spy ring allegations.

Azzam, who was arrested on November 6, will stand trial in Cairo next week on charges of spying.

Police charge that Azzam, 35, helped recruit Imad Ismail, an Egyptian citizen, as a spy, and gave him T-shirts soaked in invisible ink to use in writing reports to Israel.

Ismail, who is also in custody, has reportedly confessed to the charges. Egyptian media reports say Azzam initially confessed to the charges but now maintains his innocence.

Outside investigator agreed on in friendly-fire incident

THE parents of Dvir Mor-Haim, who was killed in 1993 in Lebanon when two IDF forces mistakenly fired on each other, agreed yesterday to the appointment of an independent investigator to examine the circumstances of the incident.

The suggestion to appoint such an investigator was made by the High Court of Justice, which the Mor-Haims had petitioned in September, demanding a full investigation into the circumstances of Dvir's death. The court said the parents and the IDF should come to an agreement on such a person, preferably a retired army officer.

The state attorney's representative said the military prosecutor and senior officers would weigh the suggestion and report back to the court in 30 days.

After the incident, in which three other soldiers were killed, the army promised a thorough investigation, and it set up an investigatory committee that eventually issued a report. However, the Mor-Haims charged that this committee did only a cursory job, and therefore did not fulfill the army's legal obligation to investigate the accident.

Col. (res.) Moshe Givat, whom the Mor-Haims had asked for a professional evaluation of the army's investigation earlier this

year, agreed that the army had not conducted a thorough investigation, leading the parents to petition the High Court.

In their petition, the parents stated that they are not interested in prosecuting any of the soldiers who were involved. They said they simply wanted to know what happened to their son in his last hours, and that the army should be able to draw effective conclusions from the incident.



Hapoel Jerusalem basketball player Jonathan Dalzal clowning around with a young patient at Shaare Zedek Hospital's pediatric department, where players distributed Hanukka doughnuts, basketballs and team shirts yesterday. (Hedi Hajjaj/Harpata 2)

MKs ink Shabbat compromise

AS the religious-secular gap seemed to widen even more this week, four MKs from different parties joined together to create a covenant for a compromise on Shabbat.

The MKs, led by kippa-wearing Alex Lubotsky (Third Way), call for the closure of stores, businesses and shopping malls, but would allow entertainment and recreation centers as well as cafes to remain open.

Along with Lubotsky, MKs Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya), Yooa Yahav (Labor) and Ze'ev Bolim (Likud) have signed the covenant

LIAT COLLINS and more parliamentarians apparently are considering it. Other religious MKs have shown interest, but are reluctant to sign.

"The aim is to create a broad public consensus on the character of Shabbat in the State of Israel," Lubotsky said.

The covenant notes that neither side necessarily agrees with the other, and the religious need not fear they are legitimizing Shabbat desecration while the secular are not justifying limits on freedom

for religious reasons. The first clause states the premise that Shabbat and religious holidays should have a different character to regular weekdays and workdays.

"I want us to be able to live together in this country. And I know that to live together we need to yield to each other," Lubotsky said, adding: "I don't want to create a 'shopping society' here like there is in the US, where entertainment is based on shopping malls," he said.

Ravitz: Yosef's comments were misinterpreted

HAIM SHAPIRO

SECULAR Israelis can let down their guard, even though former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef appears to think that they ought to be stoned for desecrating the Shabbat, according to MK Rabbi Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatorah).

Yosef, who appeared at a rally in defense of Shabbat in Tel Aviv, quoted the passage from Numbers 15 which describes how a man who gathered wood on Shabbat was sentenced to death. However, Ravitz said that by quoting this passage, Yosef was simply demonstrating the importance of Shabbat, rather than saying that those who desecrate it today should be put to death.

Ravitz said that there is a sort of code language rabbis use when speaking to a haredi public. The religious public understands the meaning, he said.

Ravitz added that it was not Yosef who said that the person who desecrated the Shabbat must die, but Moses. It was only journalists who were totally ignorant of Jewish tradition and sources who attributed a more sinister meaning

to Yosef's words, Ravitz said. Liat Collins adds: Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Yosef's statements at the rally in Tel Aviv did not impress him.

"We don't live by them and we don't die by them," Sarid said. "Out of 'love for Israel' many base, low, crude and abhorrent things are said which we no longer get excited about. Apathy has replaced emotion. They can say what they like, our convoy will continue and our wagons are full, while theirs are empty."

"At every opportunity the haredim say, 'Come spend Shabbat with us.' But what happens there, one wonders. After all, it's pretty boring there with them. They should come and spend Shabbat here with us - it's so much more interesting. We have full, rich and enriching lives."

WEATHER

Forecast: Rainy. Shabbat: Scattered showers in the center.

City	Temp	Weather
Tel Aviv	14-19	cloudy
Jerusalem	7-13	cloudy
Beth Shimon	10-15	cloudy
Be'er Sheva	10-15	cloudy
Haifa	12-17	cloudy
Netanya	11-16	cloudy
Ramat Gan	10-15	cloudy
Beer Sheva	10-15	cloudy
Dead Sea	10-24	cloudy
East	12-23	cloudy

ISRAEL'S No. 1 EL-DANITON

PER DAY EXC. INS. & MILEAGE

CELLULAR PHONE AVAILABLE

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HAIFA: 04-8222222 FAX: 04-8222222

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NETANYA: 03-7222222 FAX: 03-7222222

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